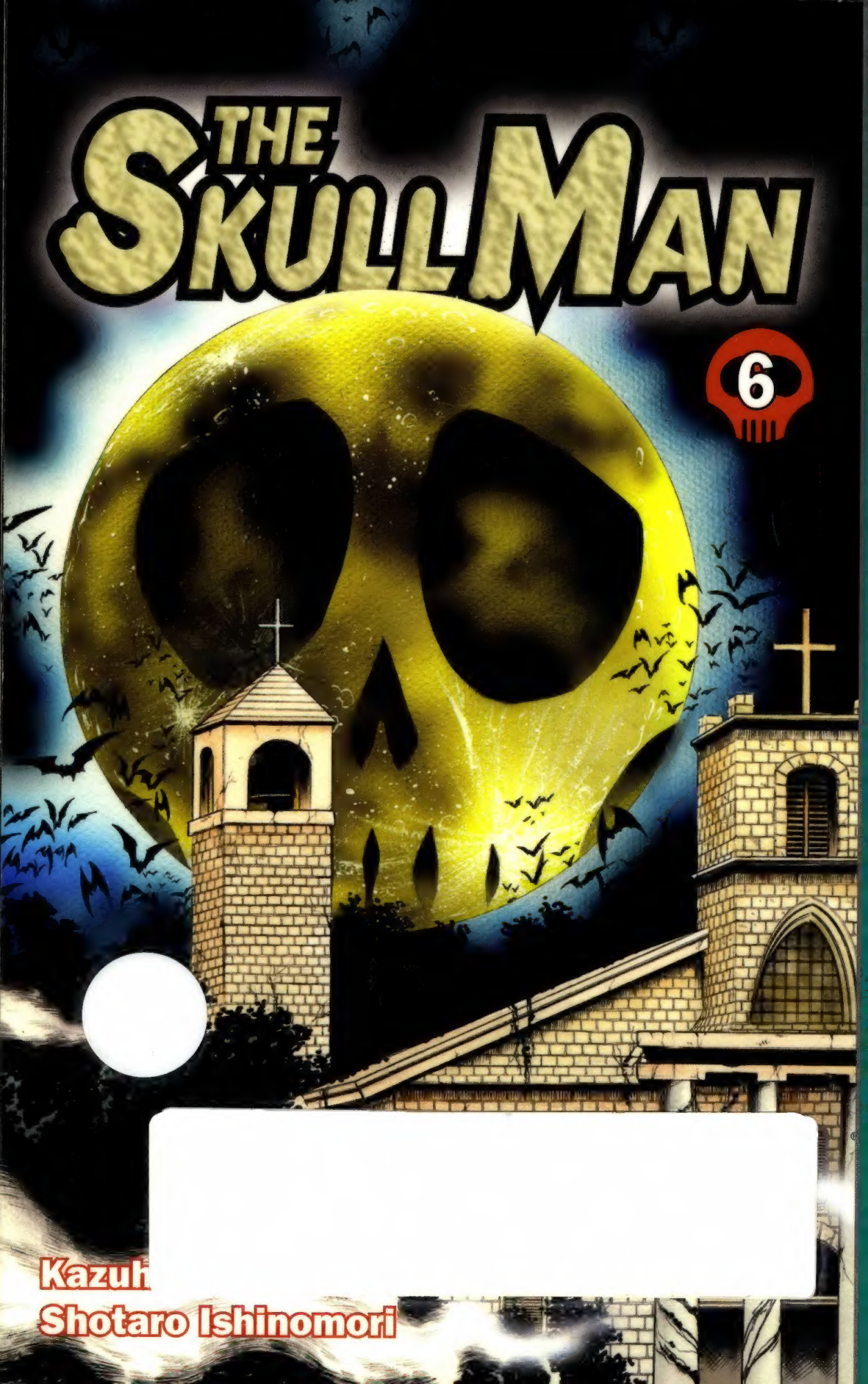
THE SKULL MAN

6

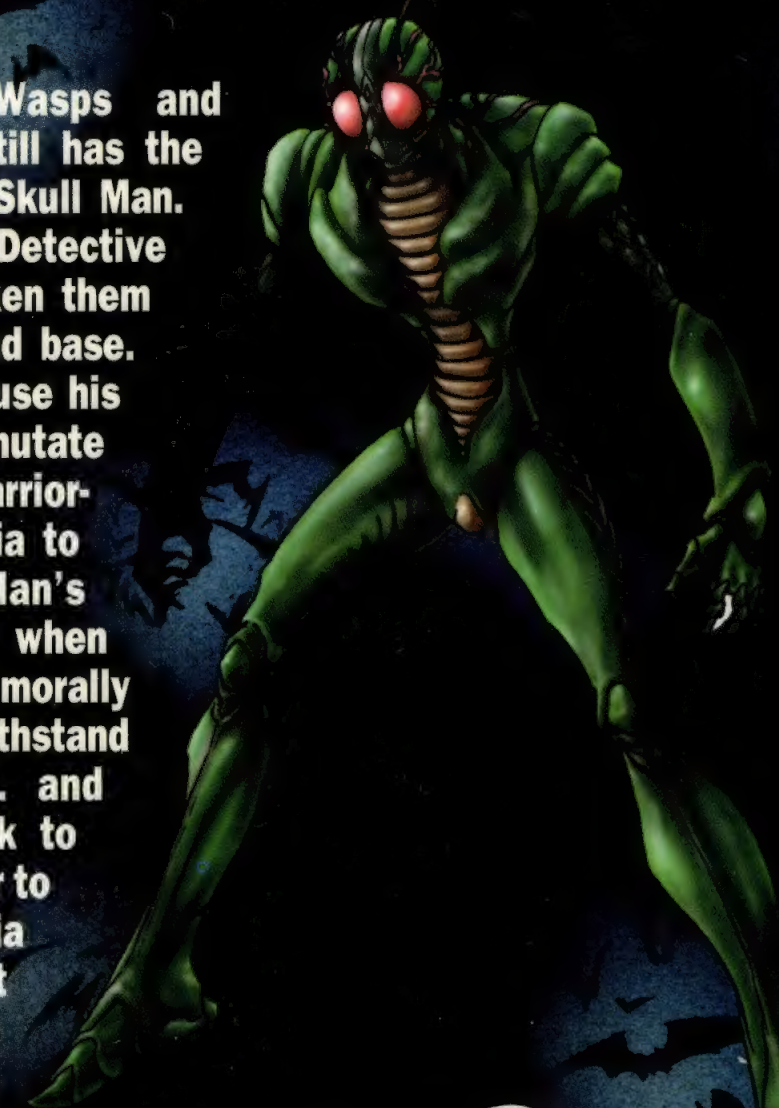


Kazuh

Shotaro Ishinomori

Manga/
Action/Adventure
USA $9.99

THE SKULL MAN



Despite losing the Wasps and Chameleons, Rasputin still has the upper hand against the Skull Man. He has captured both Detective Hioka and Maria and taken them to his undersea command base. There, Rasputin tries to use his own psychic powers to mutate Hioka into one of his warrior-slaves and to force Maria to reveal the Skull Man's secrets. Things go awry when Hioka proves to be so morally resolute that he can withstand Rasputin's dominance... and Maria's new psychic link to the Skull Man enables her to transform into Skull Maria to fight back against Rasputin. But this advantage suddenly becomes a deadly weakness when the Skull Man, in Toyko, is attacked by yet another of the organization's freakish killers, the Vulture Man.

THE SKULL MAN 6

KAZUHIKO SHIMAMOTO
SHOTARO ISHINOMORI

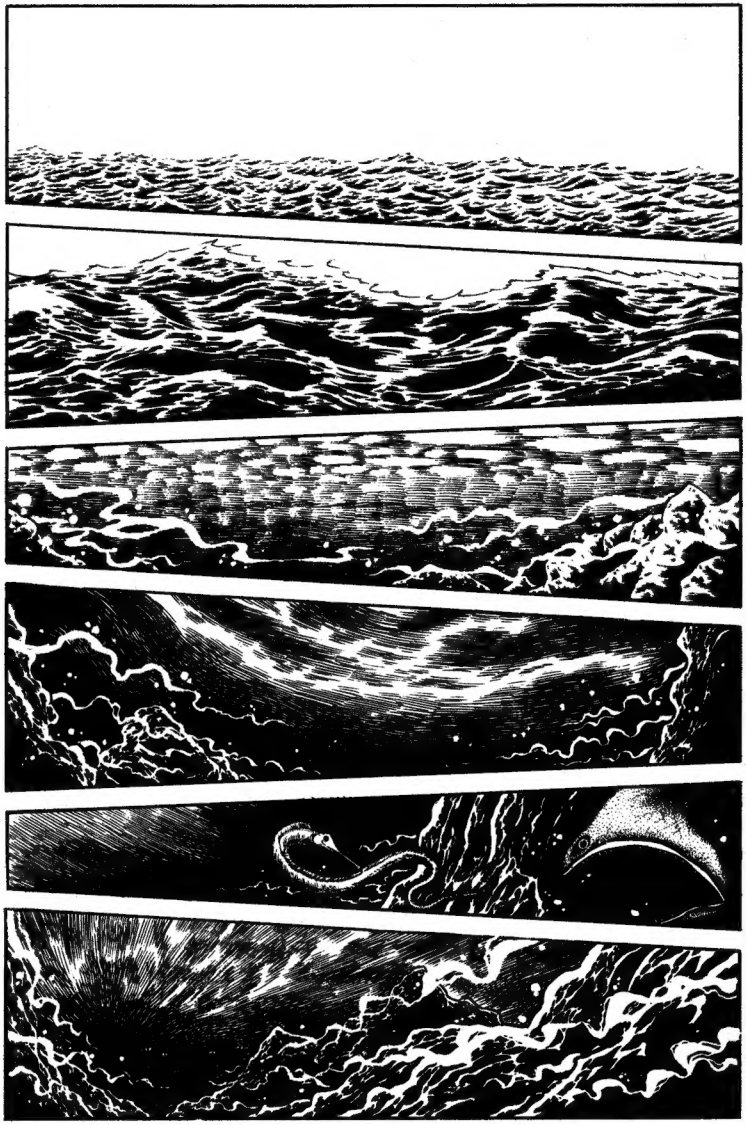
The Story So Far...

Fearing that the genetic research being undertaken by his son and daughter-in-law posed a danger to humanity, Toratsuki Chisato murdered them and destroyed their lab, intending to raise their two children, Ryusei and Maya, in an environment free from the evils of that science. However Garo, a mutagenetic creature that became a childhood companion to the young Ryusei, rescued the frightened toddler from the attack. As a young man, Ryusei set out to avenge his parents' murder, an obsession that turned him into the kind of murderer he longed to destroy. Many innocent people died in the wake of his vengeance.

After years of searching, he catches up with the killer only to learn that it's his own grandfather. Toratsuki would rather he and his legacy perish than expose the world to the mysterious powers possessed by Ryusei and his sister, so he engineers a trap to kill all three of them. But the children survived, and transcended to whatever state of being exists between mortality and divinity. Now, freed from his crippling obsession and guided by his pacifist sister, Ryusei Chisato, a.k.a. the Skull Man, has committed himself to protecting humanity. But his past may still haunt him.

Recently, armies of mutated humans have swarmed Tokyo in what appears to be a coordinated effort by a group called the Syndicate to subdue humankind. And the Skull Man may be the only one that stands in their way. However, his list of allies is growing - already his sister Maya and Garo man their secret compound high in the mountains; Maria, another supernatural being, has become disillusioned with the Syndicate and has joined the Skull Man's ranks; and Detective Hioka, originally committed to bringing down the mass murderer the Skull Man, has begun to realize that there is a much bigger threat looming on the horizon. Once major forces in the Syndicate, the Wasp and Chameleon armies have abandoned it, leaving Rasputin with very little at his disposal... except Detective Hioka and Maria, whom he has abducted.

And who is the mysterious person behind the syndicate—the faceless voice that gives orders to Rasputin—the only person who can explain the purpose of the Syndicate and its reign of terrror?



The Skull Man

Vol. 6

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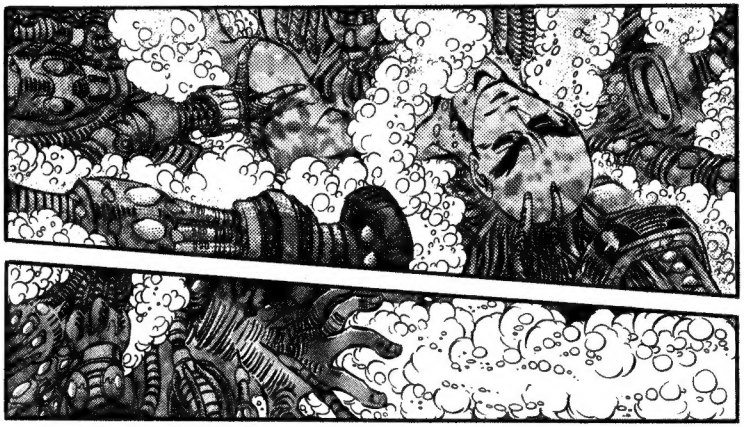
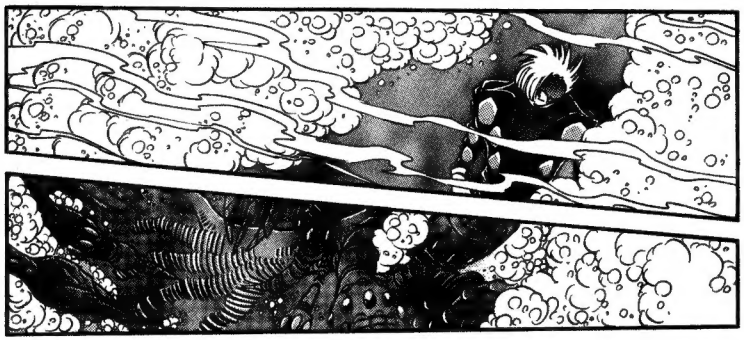
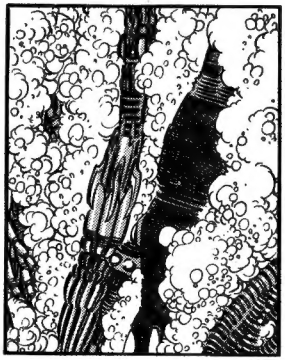
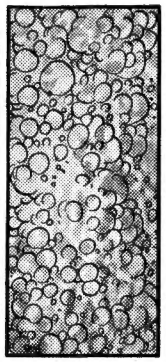
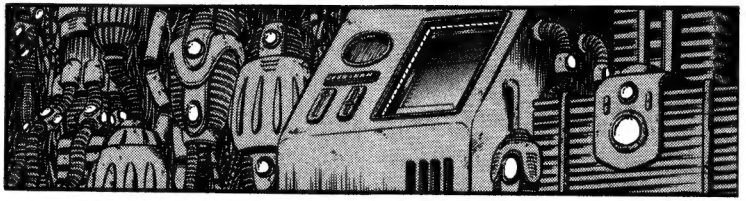
CH.37
THE SKULL MARIA
スカル・マリア

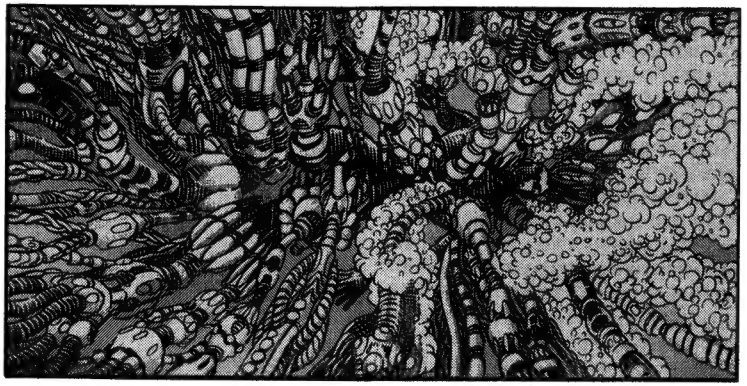


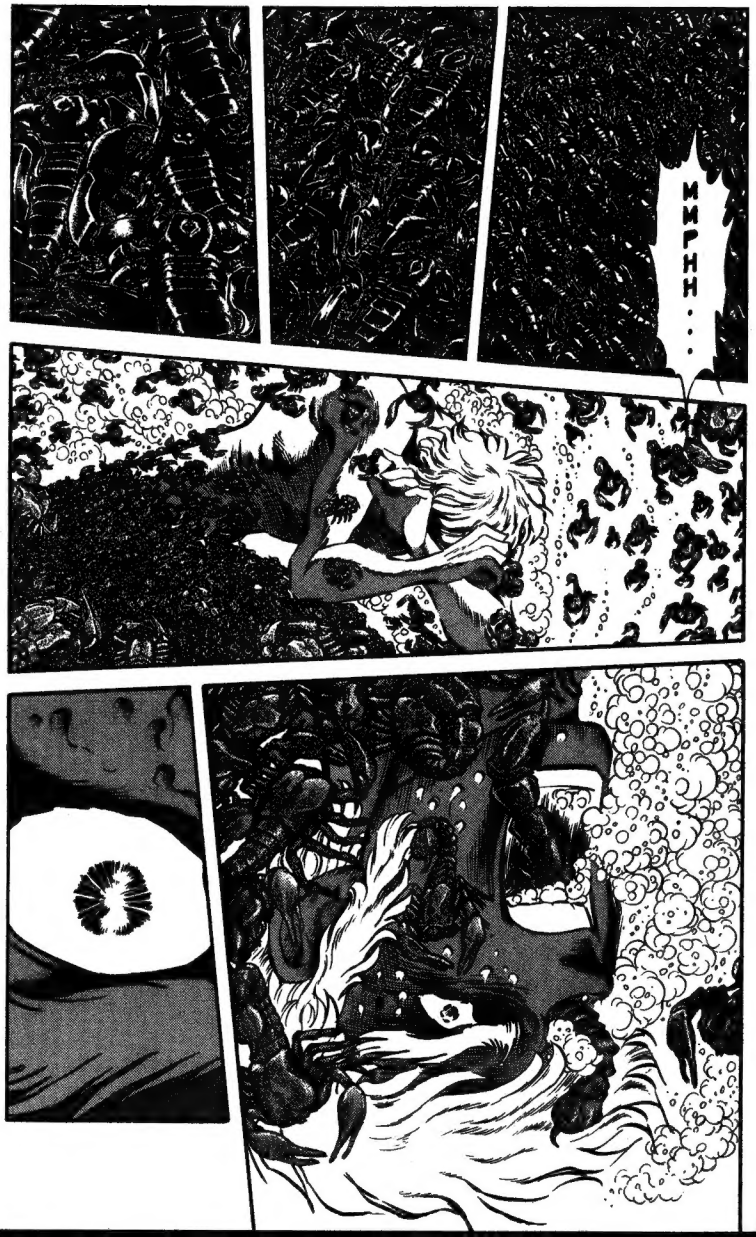


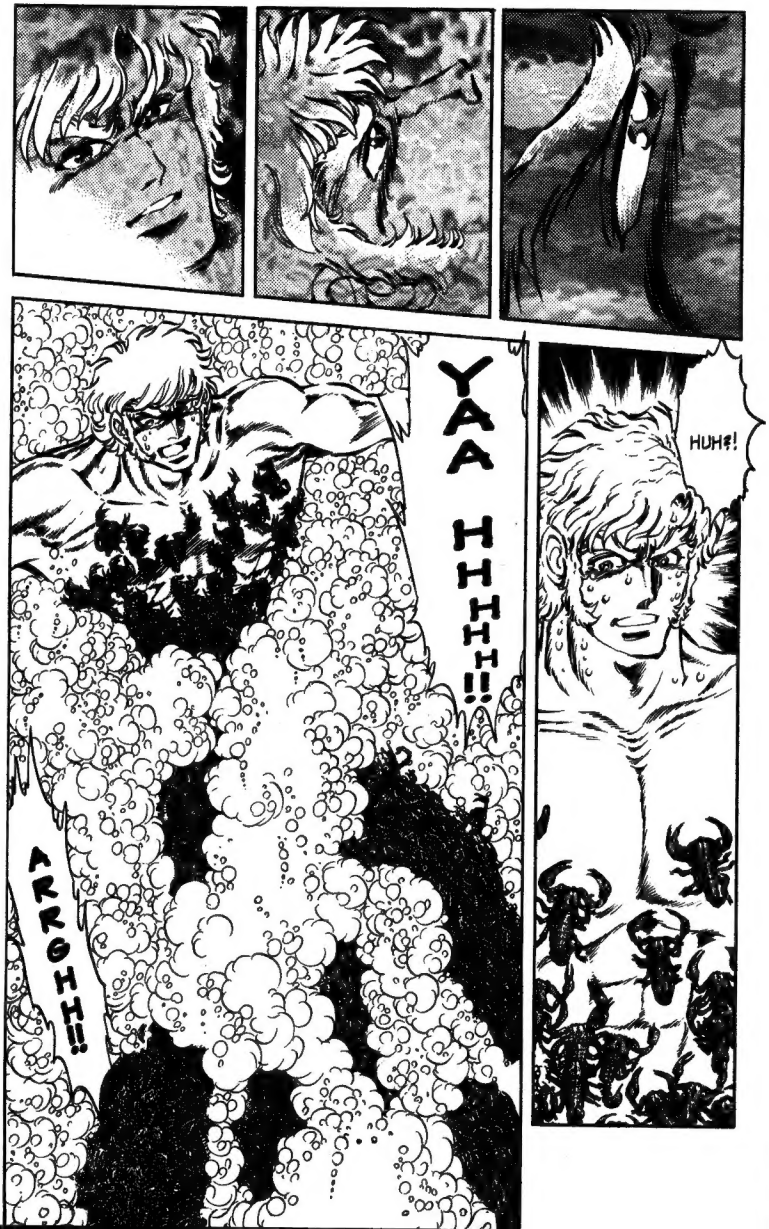


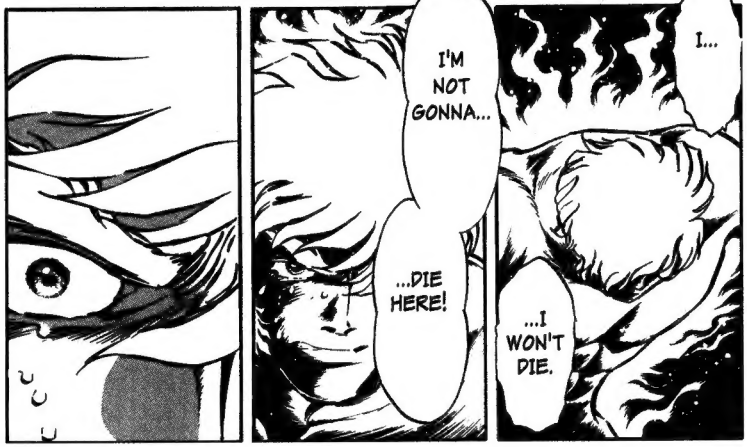


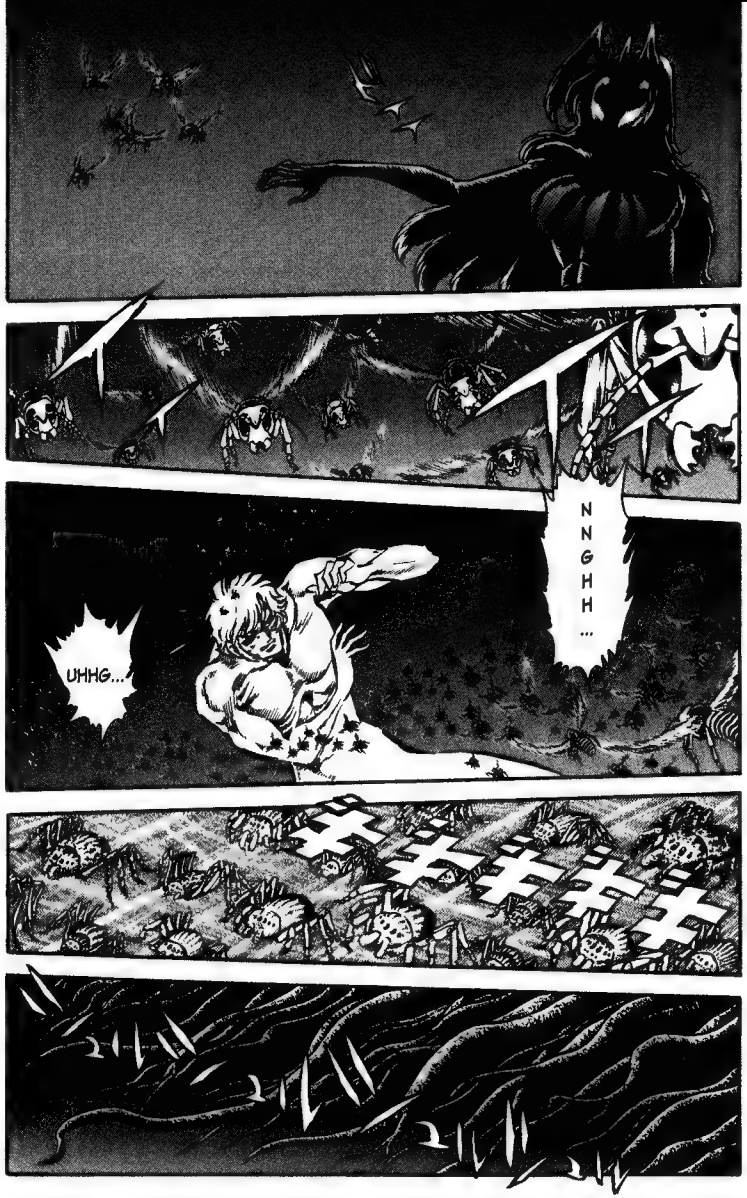




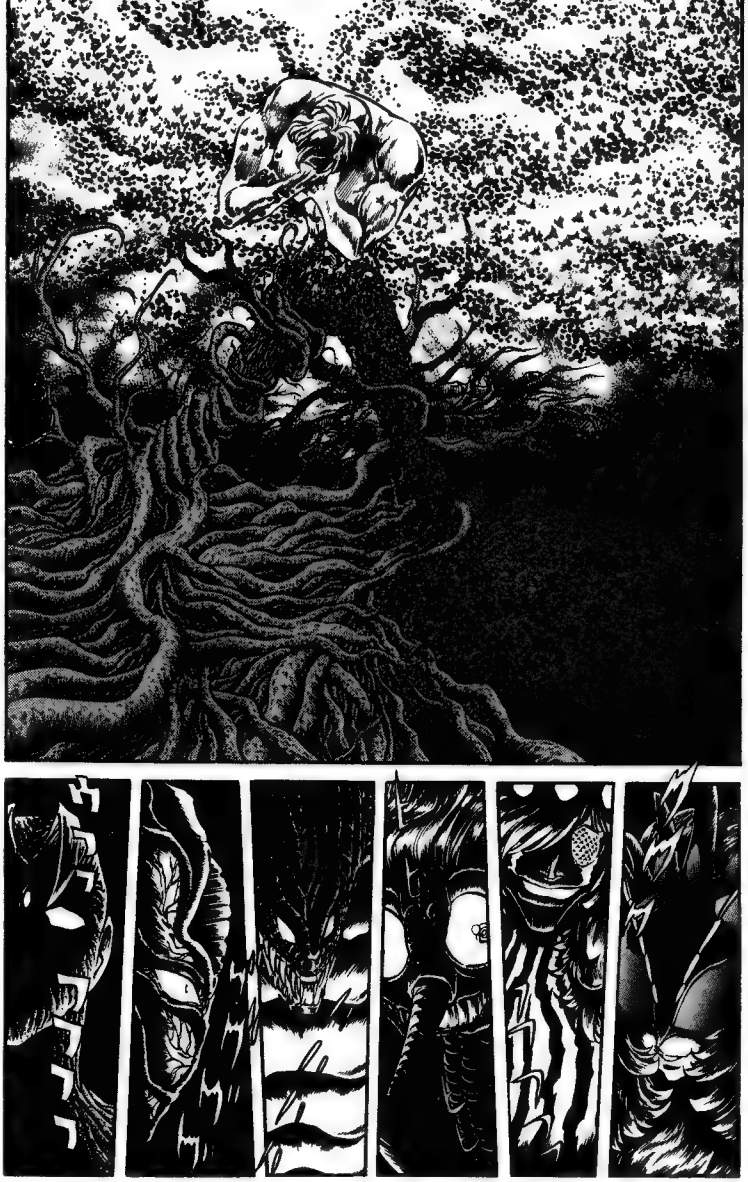

MMPHH...


HUH?!
YAA HHHHH!!
AKKOHH!!


I...
I'M NOT GONNA...
...DIE HERE!
...I WON'T DIE.

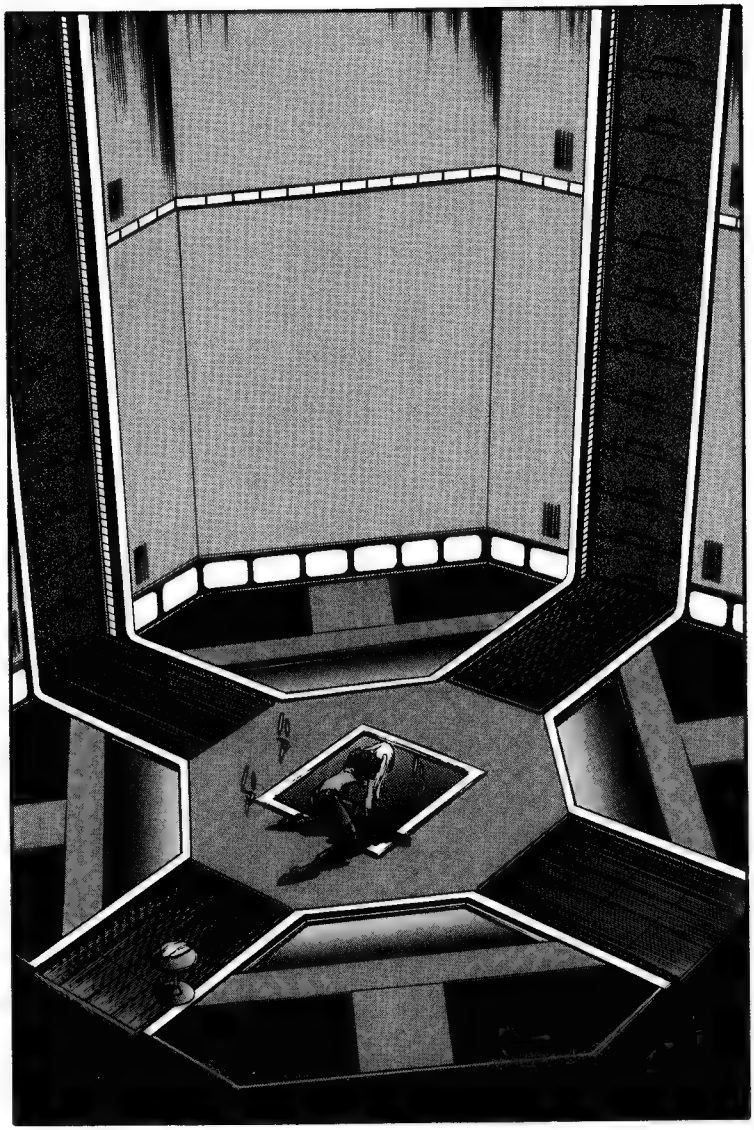

NNGHH...
UHHG...

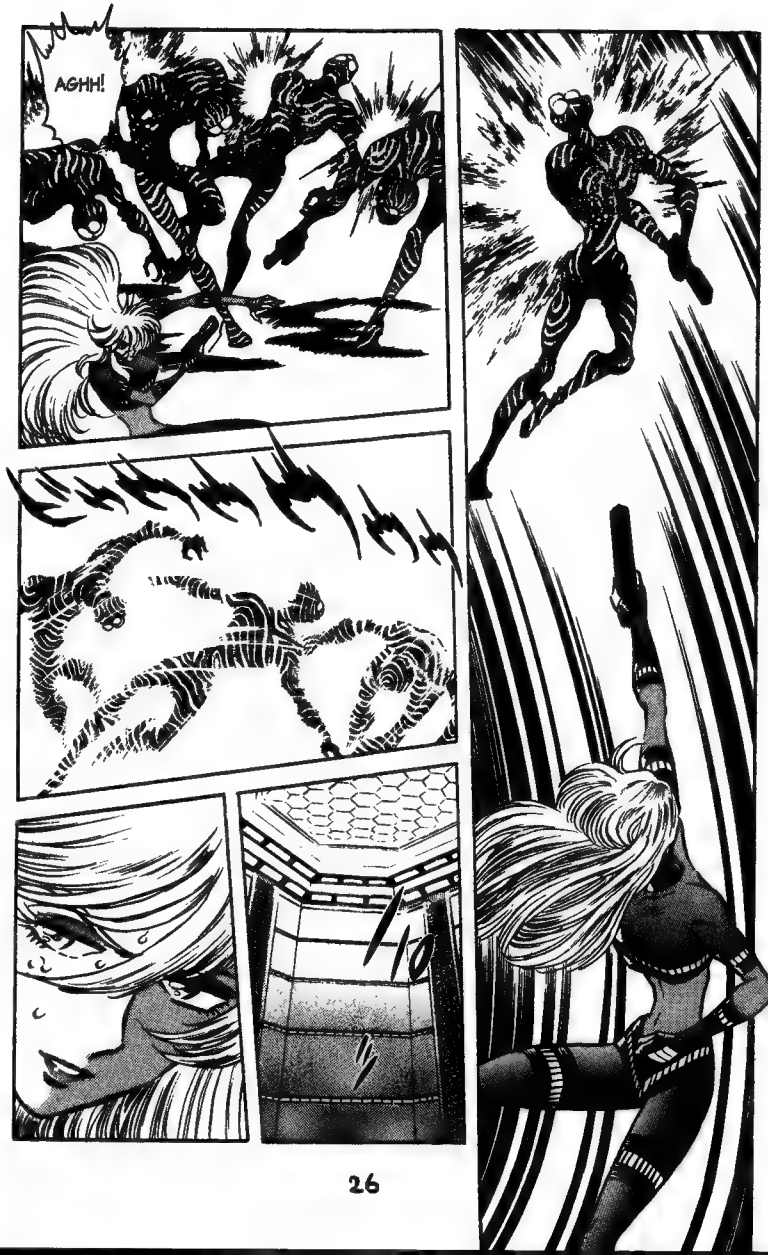
THESE SUPER POWERS OF YOURS...
YOU'VE GIVEN UP YOUR HUMANITY...
...THEY MAKE YOUR SOULS AS UGLY AS YOUR BODIES.
...IN YOUR SICK LUST FOR POWER.
YOU WON'T...
...GET AWAY WITH IT.
I WON'T LET YOU!
I'LL DESTROY YOU, EVEN IF I MUST TRAVEL TO HELL AND BACK TO DO IT!
MAYBE YOU'LL KILL ME...
...BUT I WON'T LET YOU TAKE OVER THE WORLD!!

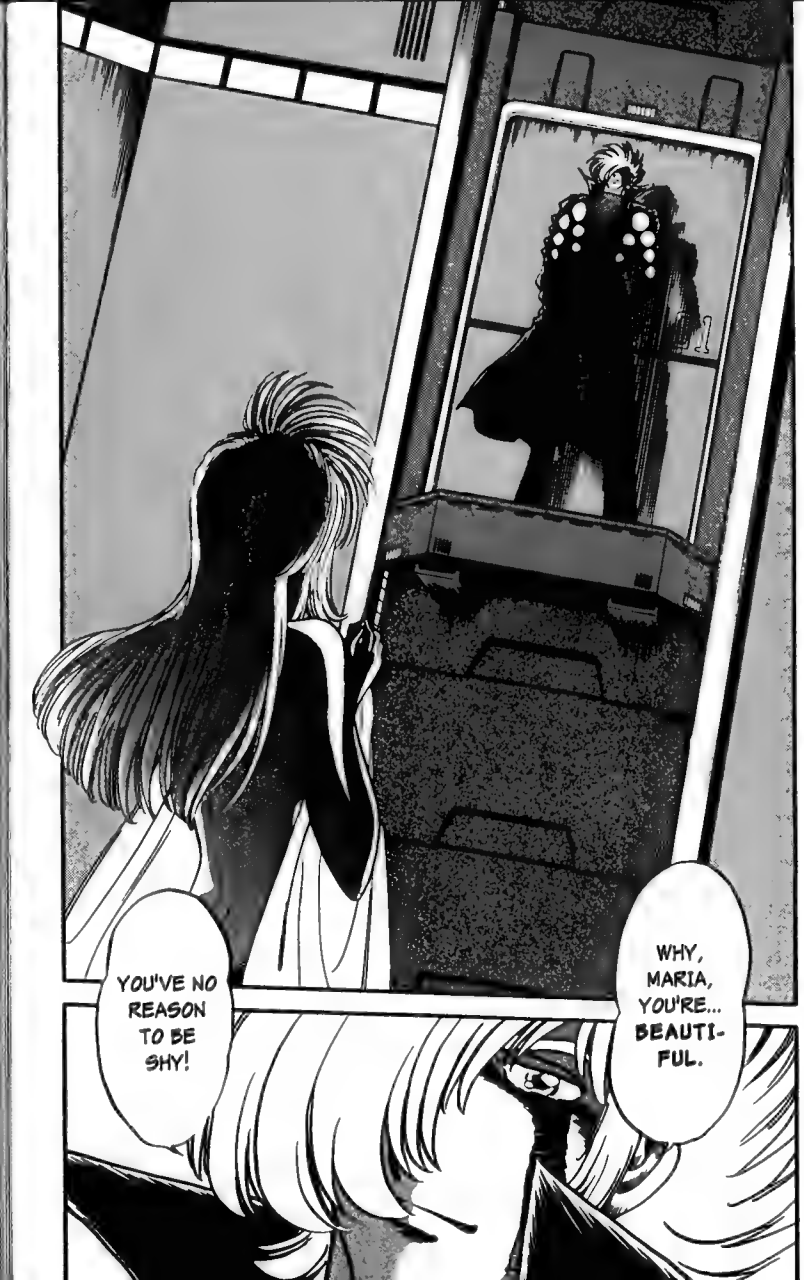


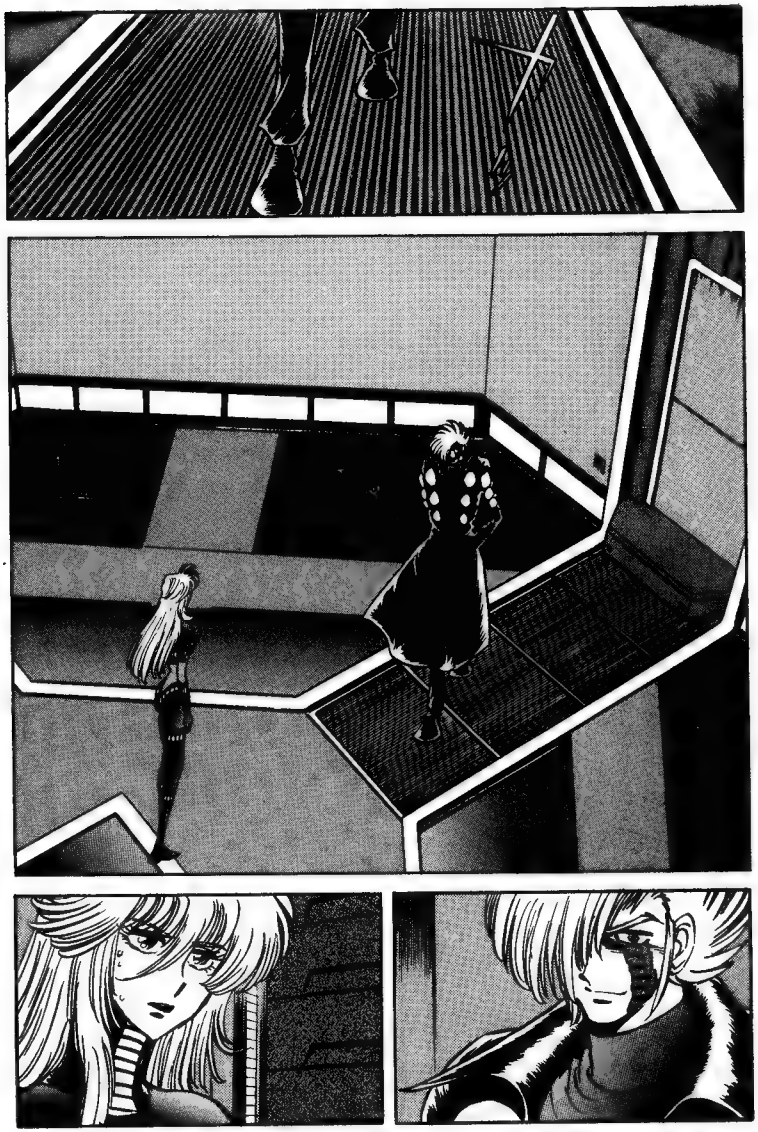
...BUT YOU WILL NEVER CONTROL MY MIND!
YOU MAY DESTROY MY BODY...
...BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN NEVER HAVE!
YOU CAN BUILD UP YOUR POWER...
POWER ENOUGH TO DEFEAT US.
YOU WANT POWER, TOO, DON'T YOU?
...WHEN YOU WANT THE VERY POWERS WE HAVE?
HOW CAN YOU DESPISE US...

YOU DAMNED FREAKS!
SHUT UP!
I'M NO POWER JUNKIE LIKE YOU!
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO FIGHT CRIME AND EVIL!!
I ONLY WANT TO BE ABLE TO STOP YOU, AND I DON'T NEED GREAT POWER TO DO THAT!!
Elsewhere...




AGHH!


YOU'VE NO REASON TO BE SHY!
WHY, MARIA, YOU'RE... BEAUTI-FUL.



BESIDES, YOU KNOW ME... I NEVER JUDGE BY APPEAR-ANCES.
I LOOK FOR INNER BEAUTY.
SO IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE CLOTHED OR NOT...
...ESPECIALLY WHEN IT HAS AN ASS LIKE YOURS.
AND RIGHT NOW, I CAN SEE THAT THE HUMAN BODY IS A MAGNIFICENT OBJECT...
...WITH MY LEFT EYE I CAN SEE ALL I NEED TO SEE.

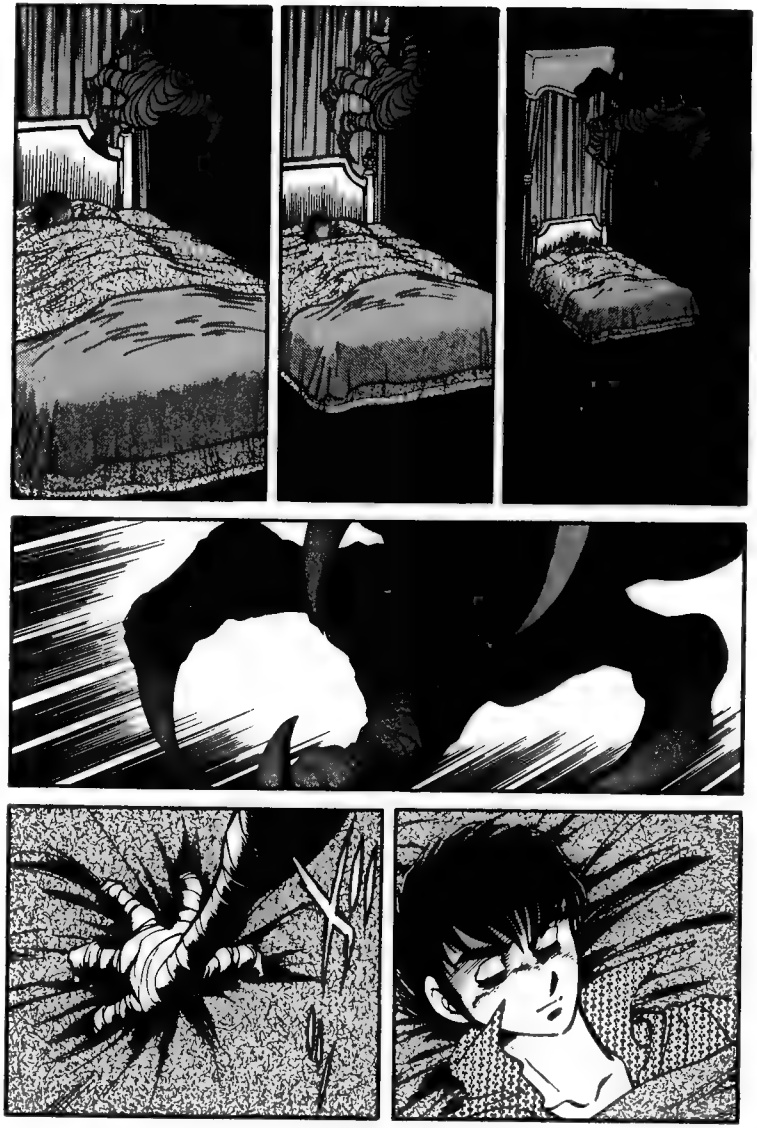
I CAN READ YOUR MIND AND THOUGHTS.
OF COURSE, WITH MY RIGHT EYE I HAVE THE POWER...
...TO SEE INSIDE THE PSYCHE!
...AND TELL ME ALL ABOUT HIM.
SO WHY DON'T YOU BE A GOOD LITTLE GIRL...
THEY'VE BEEN GROWING EVER SINCE YOU MET RYUSEI CHISATO.
MARIA, I KNOW YOUR POWERS HAVE BEEN GROWING.

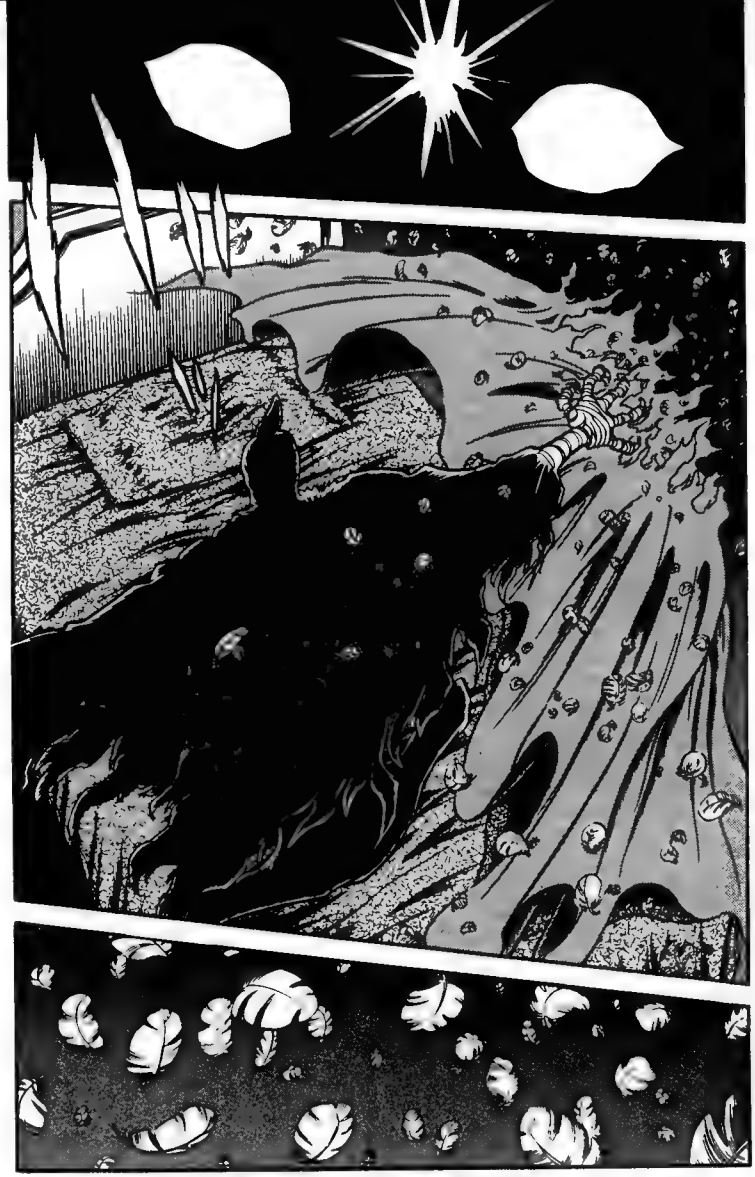
NGH!!

QUIT PLAYING AROUND, MARIA!
YOU KNOW YOUR POWERS CAN'T WORK ON ME!
SO, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME WHAT I WANT?
JUST LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO!!

GGH...
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN SO RESILIENT, BUT IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD. GIVE UP, MARIA!!
IT'S OVER!
STOP FIGHTING ME!!
!!
SHOW ME...
...WHAT CHISATO'S DONE TO YOU.
WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM SKULL MAN?

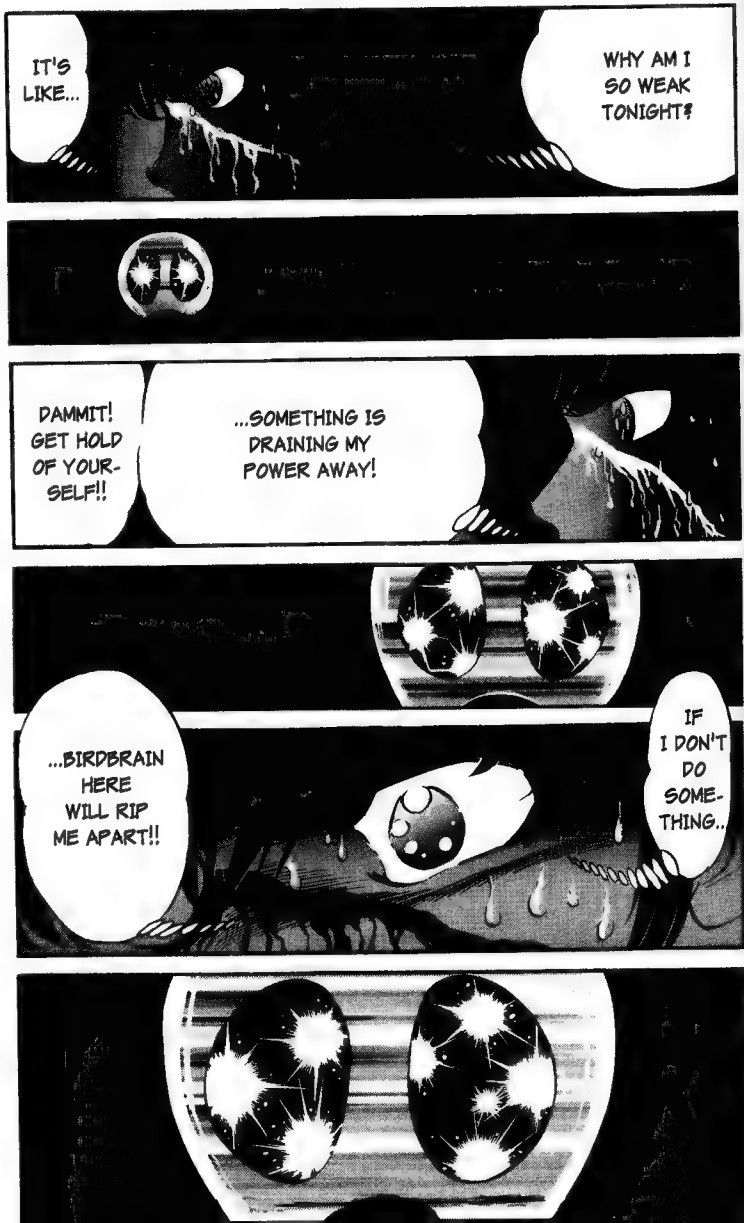
CH.38 覚醒 AWAKENING



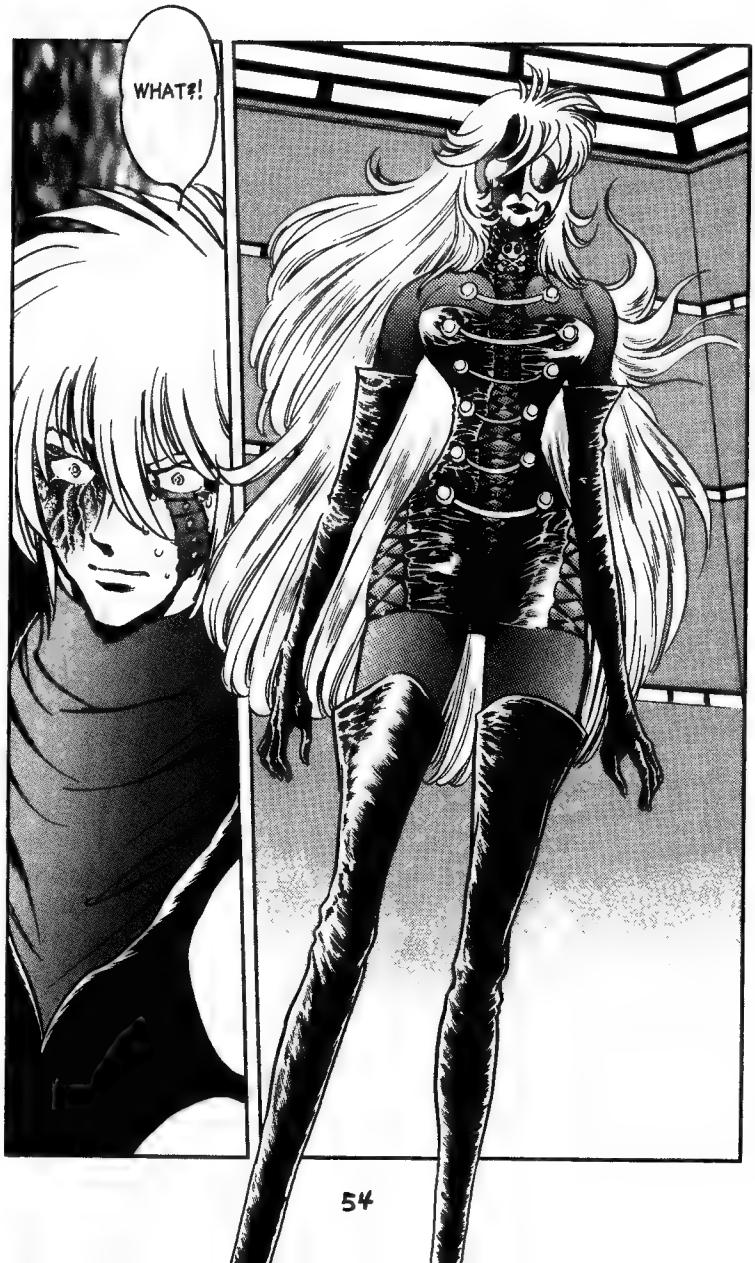


I THINK YOU'LL FIND ME MUCH TOUGHER THAN THOSE AMATEURS YOU'RE USED TO!!
RYUSEI!

U G G H !
STINGS, DON'T IT?
IT'S OVER, KID. I'M A PRO. I'VE BEEN CONTRACTED TO KILL YOU.
HA HA HA ...

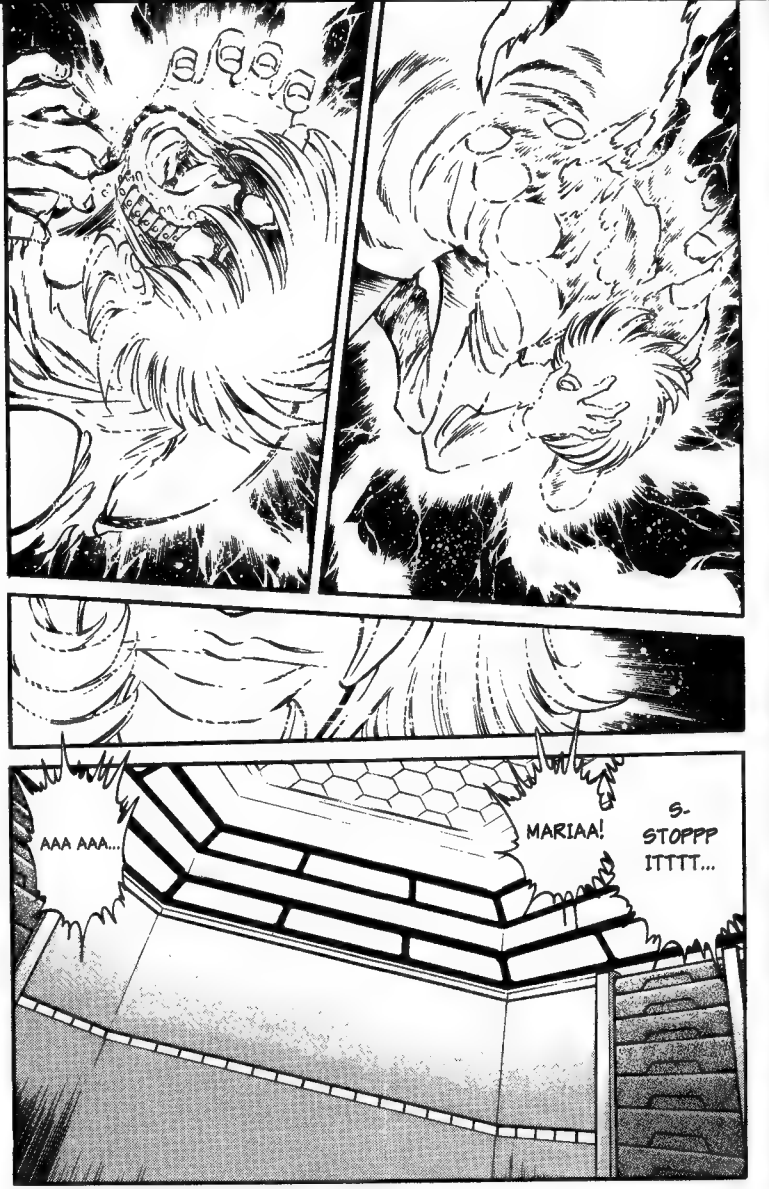

IT'S LIKE...
WHY AM I SO WEAK TONIGHT?
DAMMIT! GET HOLD OF YOURSELF!!
...SOMETHING IS DRAINING MY POWER AWAY!
...BIRDBRAIN HERE WILL RIP ME APART!!
IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING..

HUH?! YOU CAN'T BE THIS EASY.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, KID?
AM I BORING YOU?
TRYING TO LULL ME INTO LETTING MY GUARD DOWN?
I...
WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH ME?!

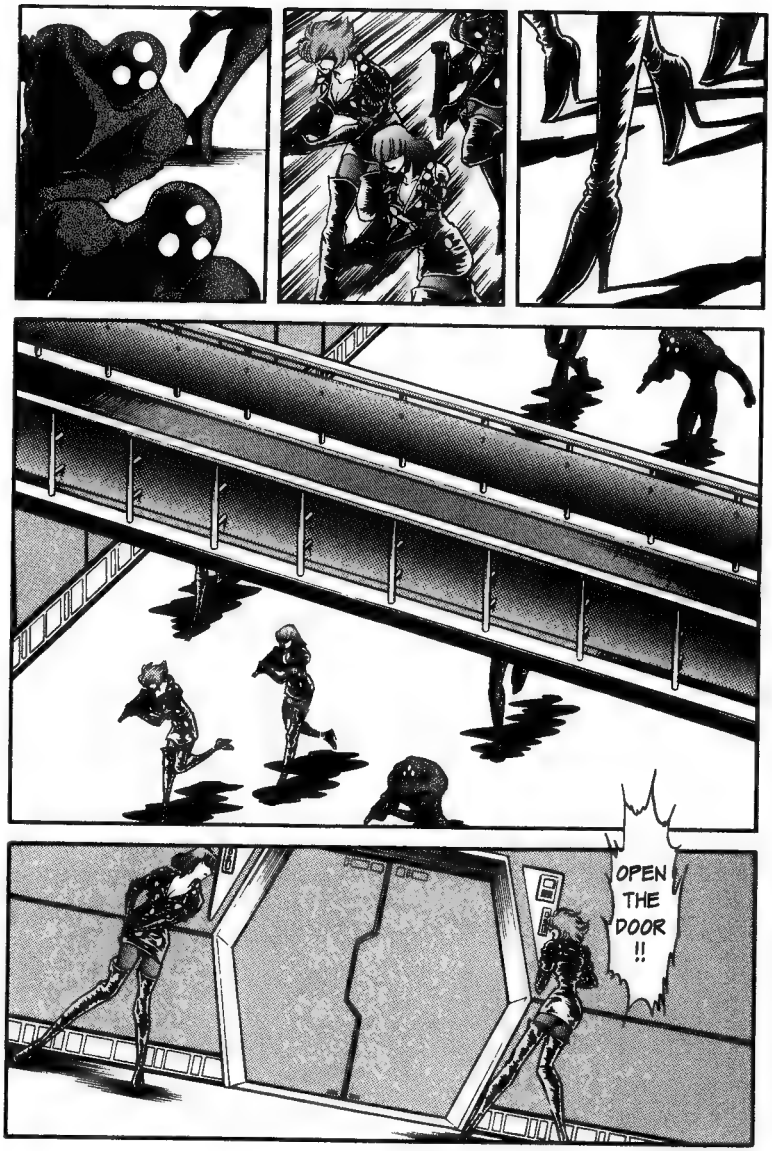

WHAT?!

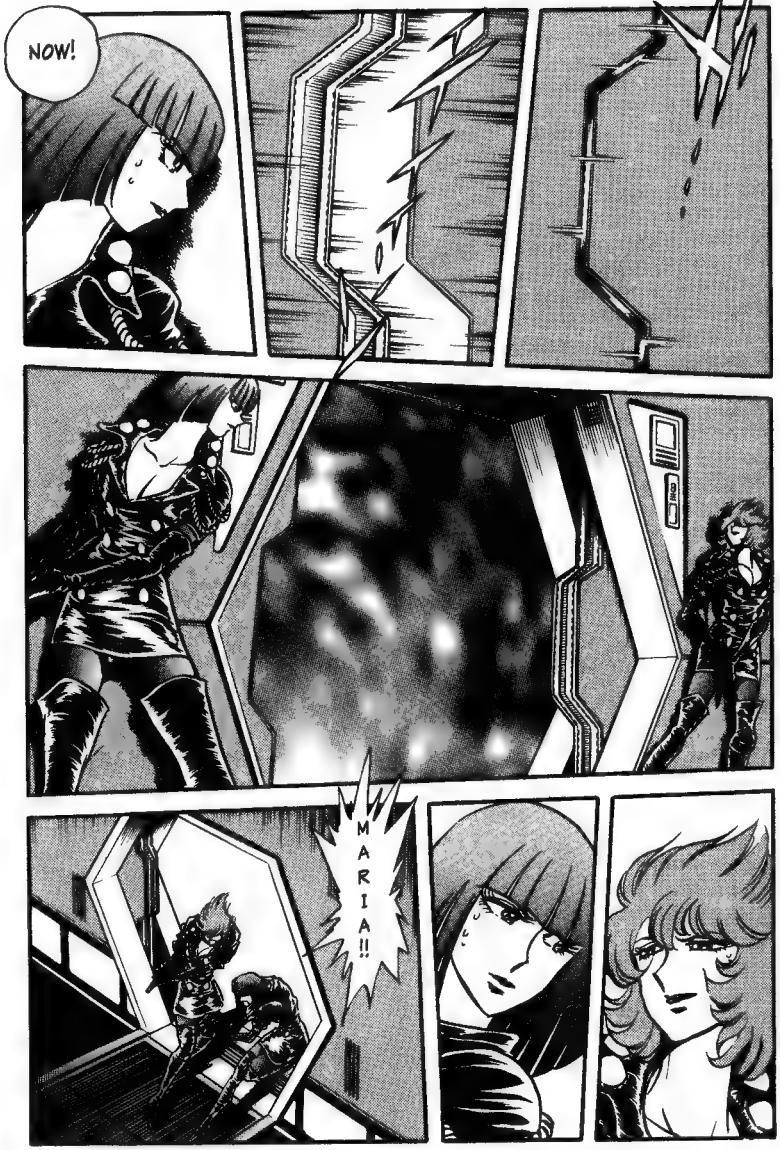
WHEN DID YOU BECOME SO POWERFUL?!
WHAT'S GOING ON, MARIA?
THAT COSTUME...

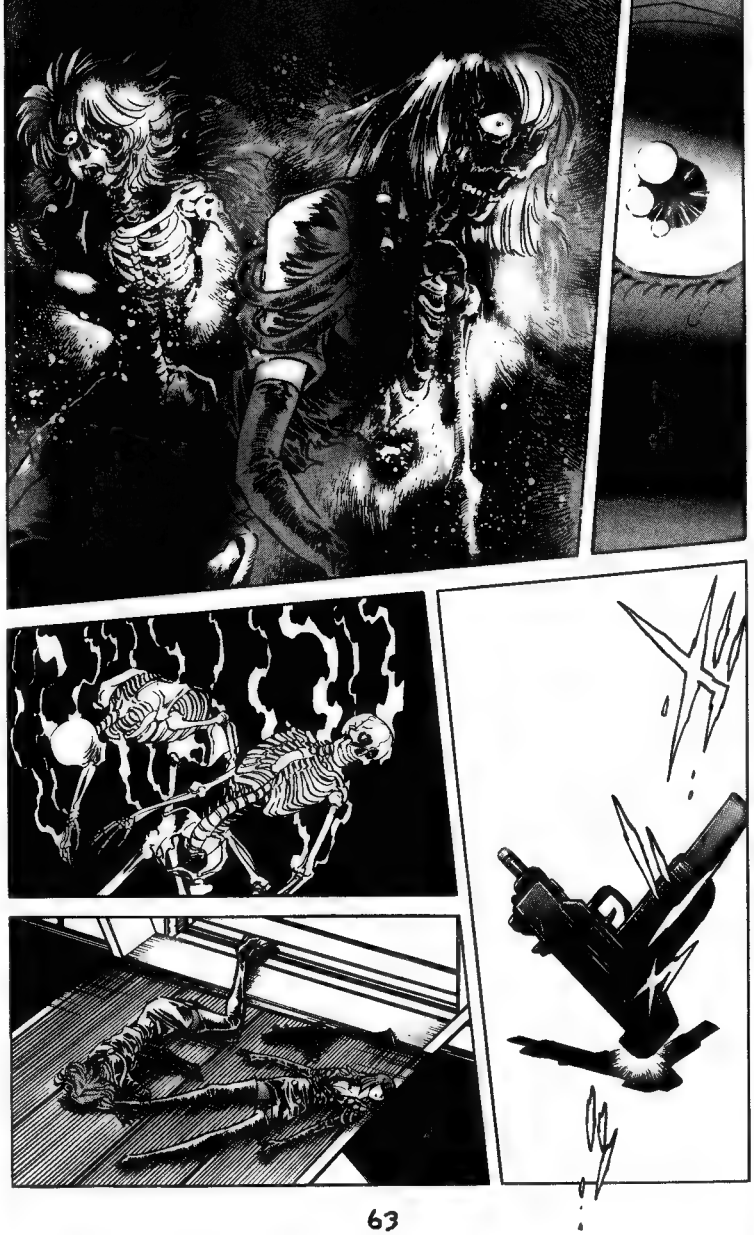
NGH!
AH!
UHH!
AH..
AHHHHH!!

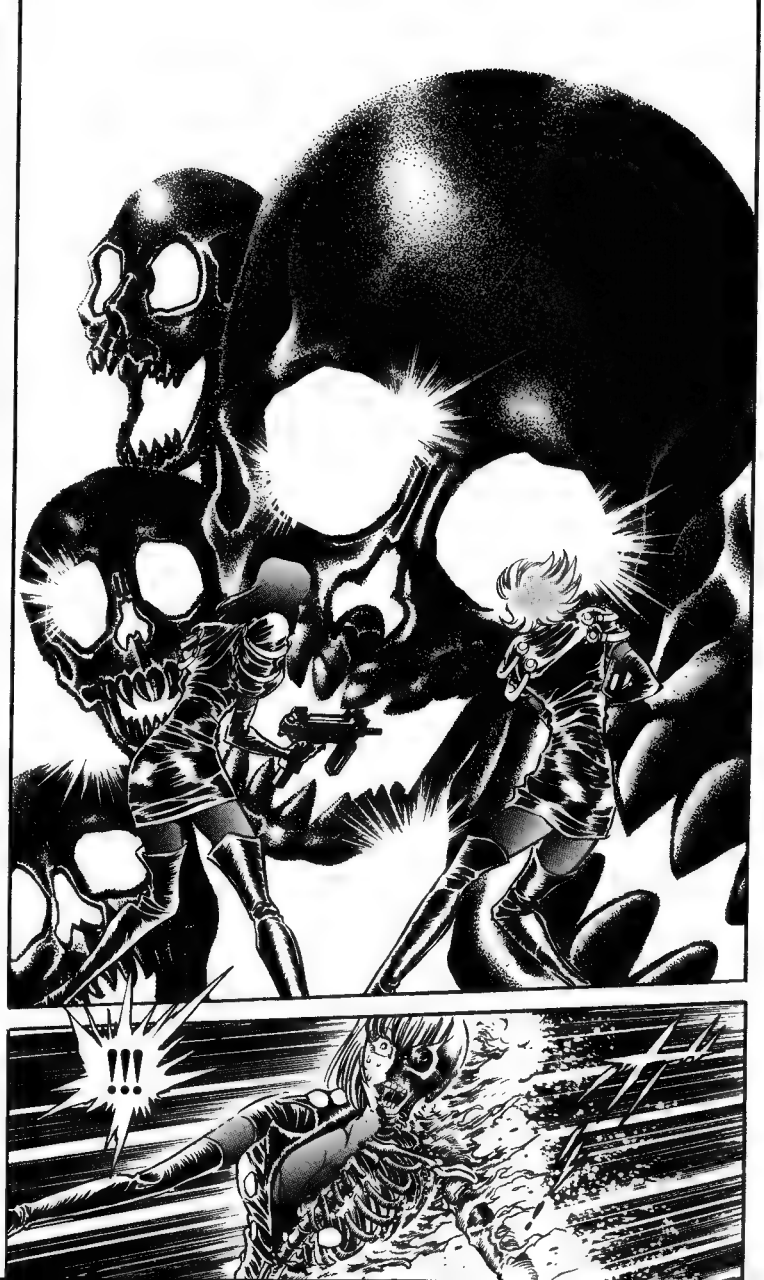

AAA AAA...
MARIAA!
S-
STOPPP
ITTTT...

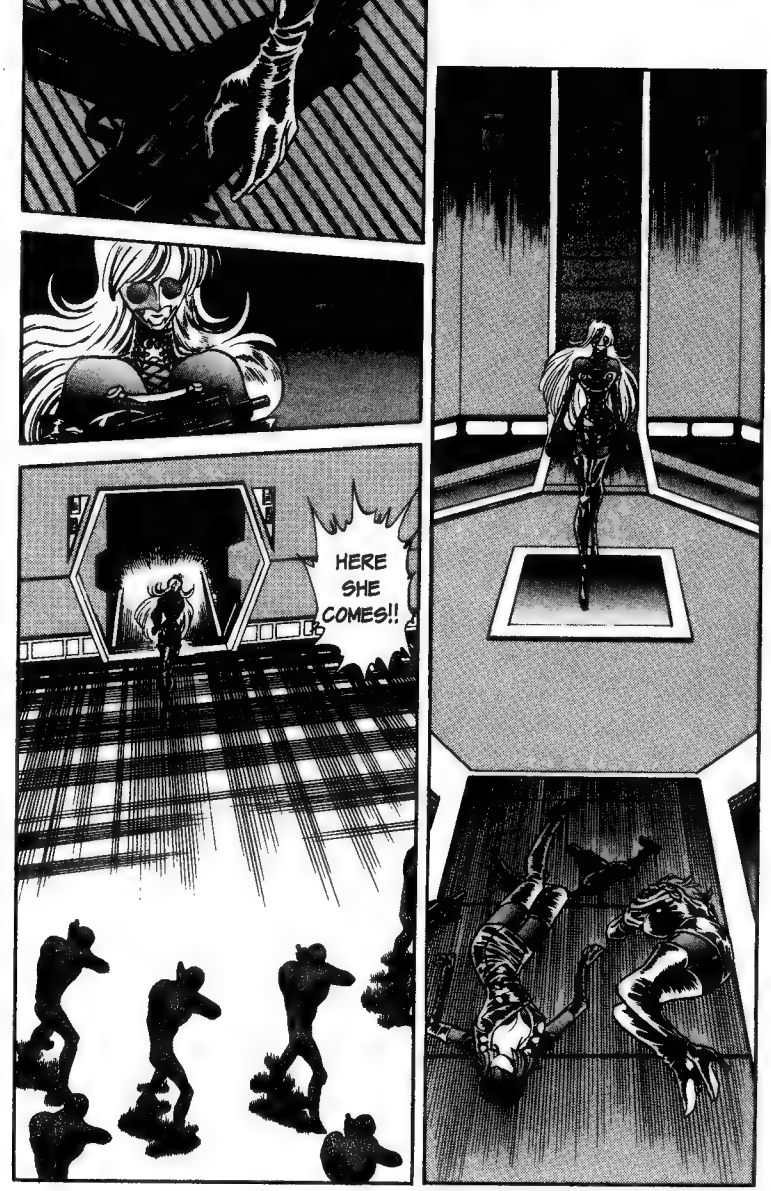
HAH!!


OPEN THE DOOR !!

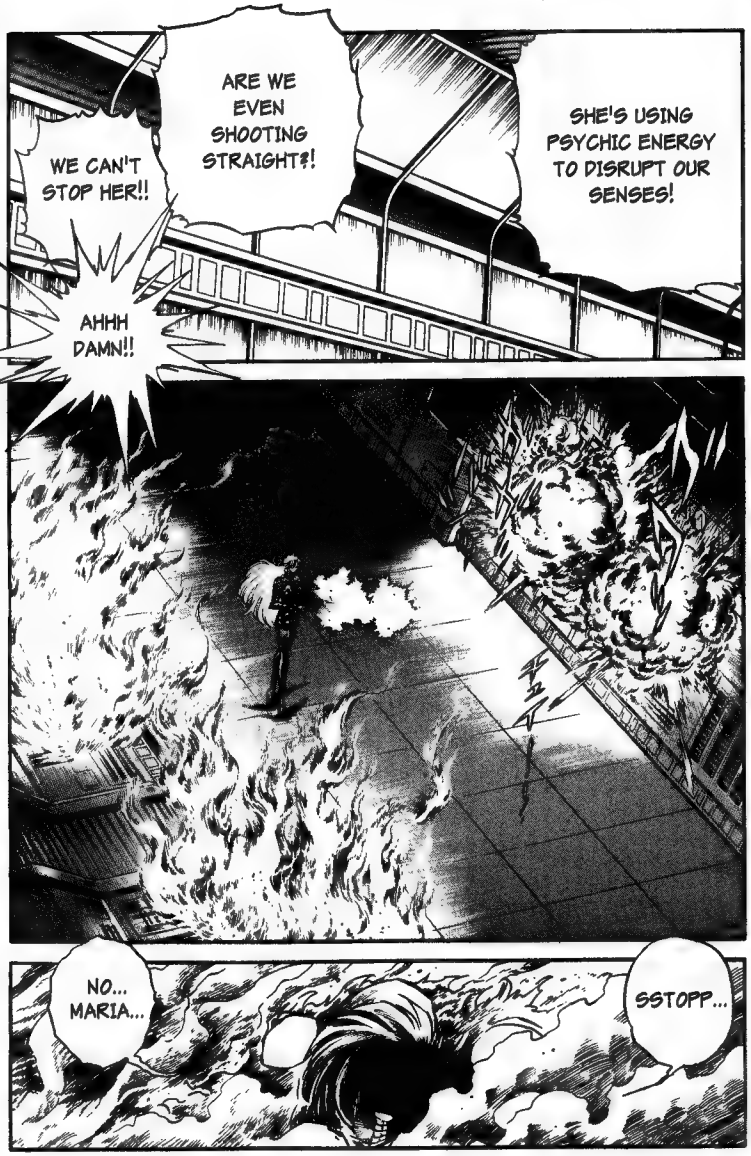

NOW!
MARIA!!

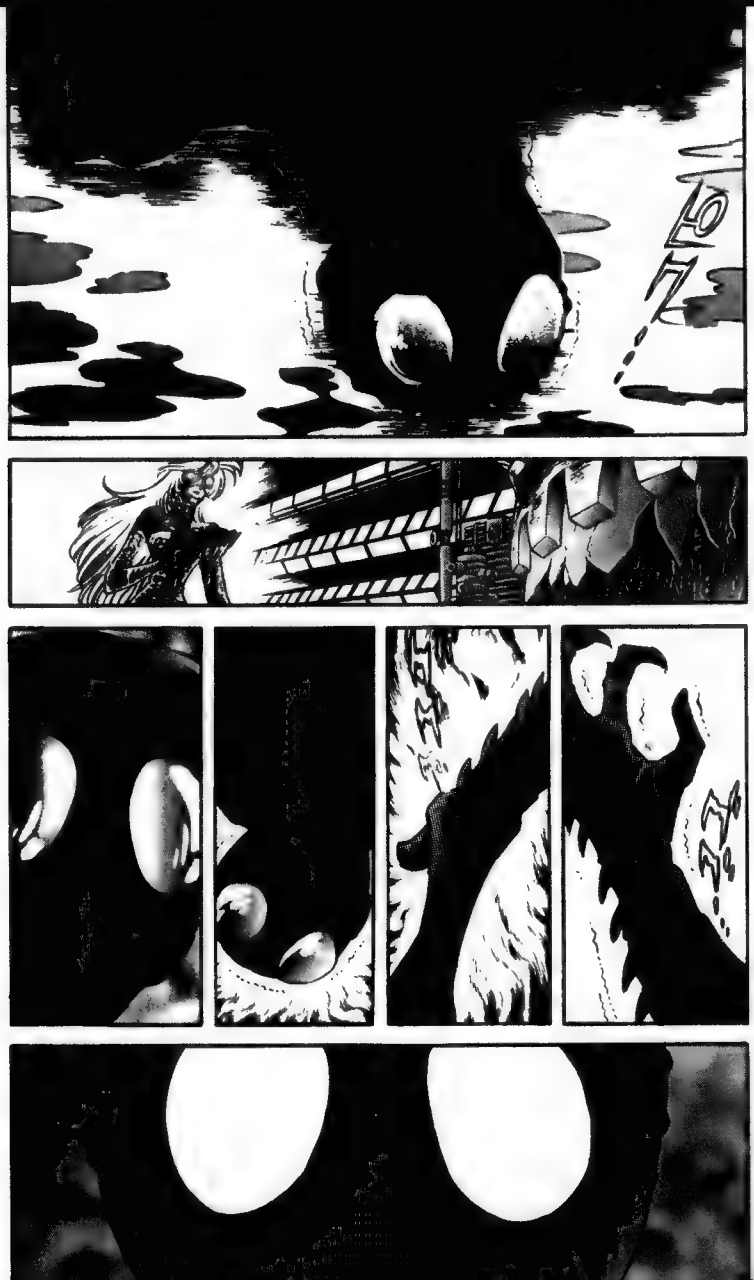




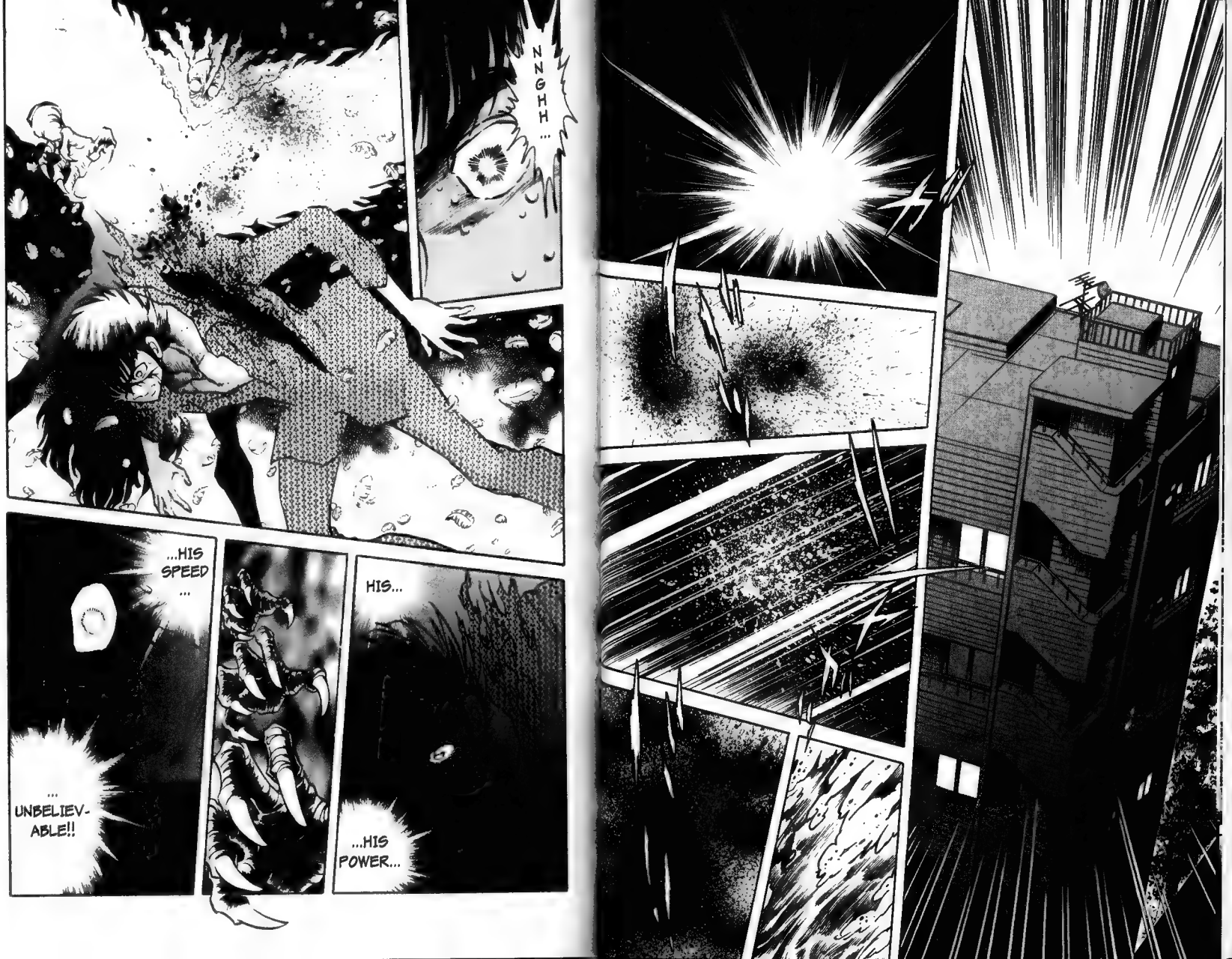

HERE SHE COMES!!

IT'S NO USE! SHE'S GOT SOME SORT OF FORCE FIELD AROUND HER!
WHAT THE...?! OUR BULLETS AREN'T EVEN HITTING HER!!


WE CAN'T STOP HER!!
ARE WE EVEN SHOOTING STRAIGHT?!
SHE'S USING PSYCHIC ENERGY TO DISRUPT OUR SENSES!
AHHH DAMN!!
NO... MARIA...
SSTOPP...


UGH...

CH. 39
PTEROSAURIAN
翼竜


NNGHH...
...HIS SPEED...
...UNBELIEV-ABLE!!
HIS...
...HIS POWER...

NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL HE IS...
...IF HE CONTINUES USING THIS MUCH ENERGY...
...HE'LL BURN HIMSELF OUT SOON.
HEE HEE HEE...

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE SO HELPLESS, RYUSEI?
I'M FAR TOO POWERFUL FOR YOU...
...FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU CAN EVEN IMAGINE!
BUT DON'T WORRY...
...RESTRAINT HAS NEVER BEEN ONE OF MY VIRTUES, SO I'M SURE THIS WILL BE OVER QUICKLY.
AND THEN...

AND THEN...?
AND THEN...
...YOU'LL BECOME A PART OF ME, RYUSEI!
WHAT?!
!!

FOR THAT, YOU DESERVE DEATH!
YOU DARE ATTACK MASTER RYUSEI?
FEEL THE POISON...
...OF OUR DEADLY STINGS!!

HE MUST BE IMMUNE TO OUR VENOM!
OUR STINGERS... THEY'RE NOT WORKING?!!

UHHH...!

WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
WHA...?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO KILL ME?
WHAT'S WRONG, WASP GIRLS?

AH...
AHHH!
HUH? THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT ...
... I CAN'T ...

GYAAAHH!
!!

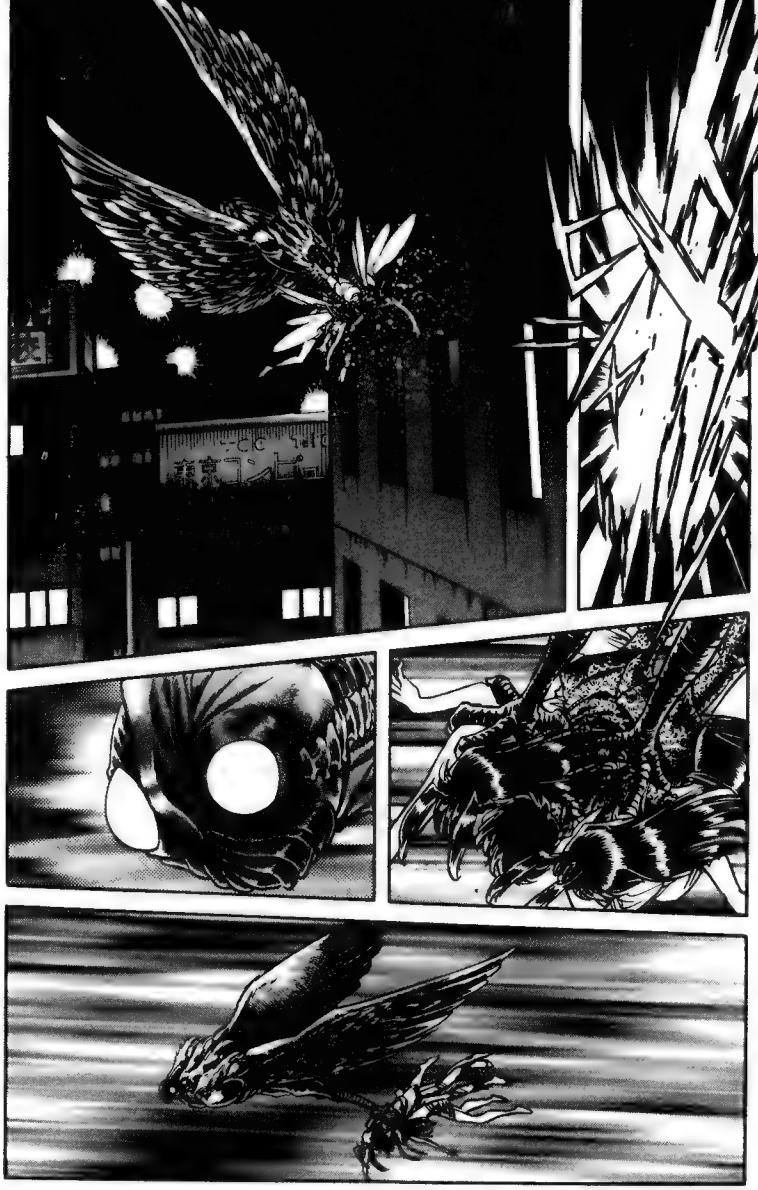
AAGGHHHH..!!

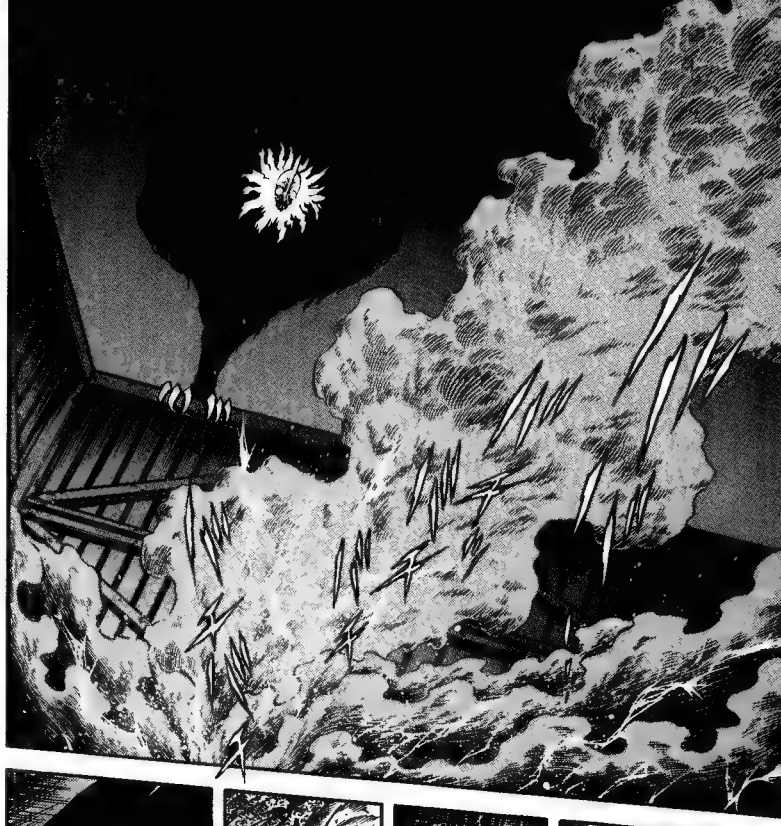
MISS KIJIMA ...
GOOD LUCK.
WE'LL HOLD HIM OFF HERE WHILE YOU MAKE YOUR ESCAPE. YOU MUST HEAL YOURSELF.
...HE'S TOO POWERFUL FOR YOU.
THERE'S NO OTHER OPTION. YOU MUST GO, RYUSEI...
NNNH...
...NOW!

YOU DIDN'T SAY GOOD-BYE!
GOING SO SOON?

NGGH!
DAMN!

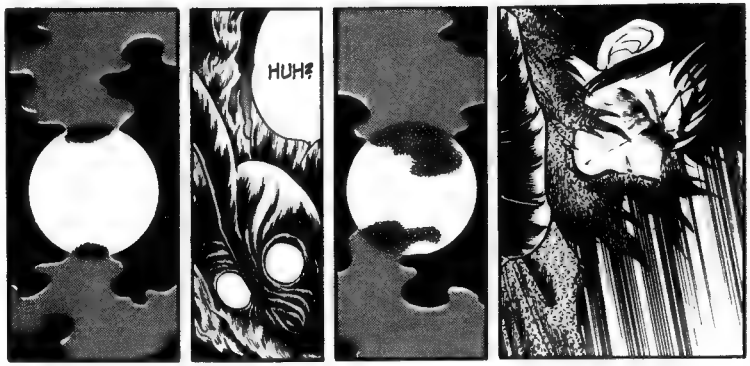
FS
MFS



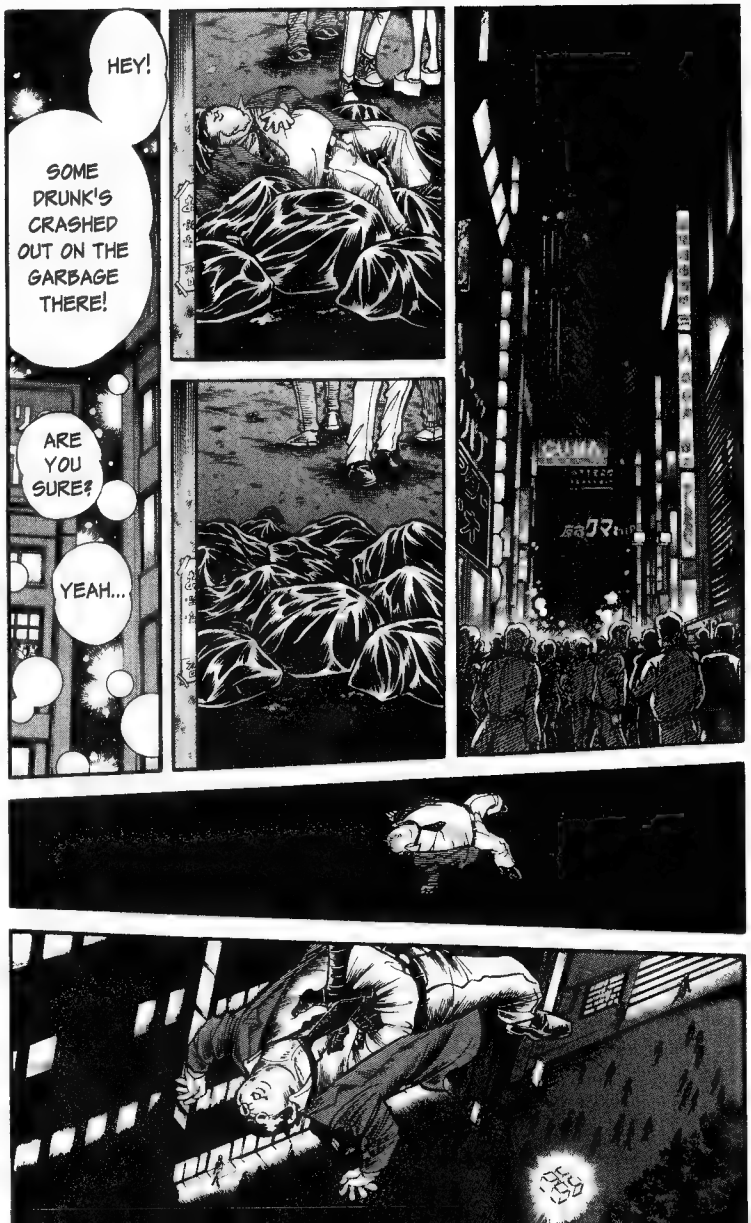


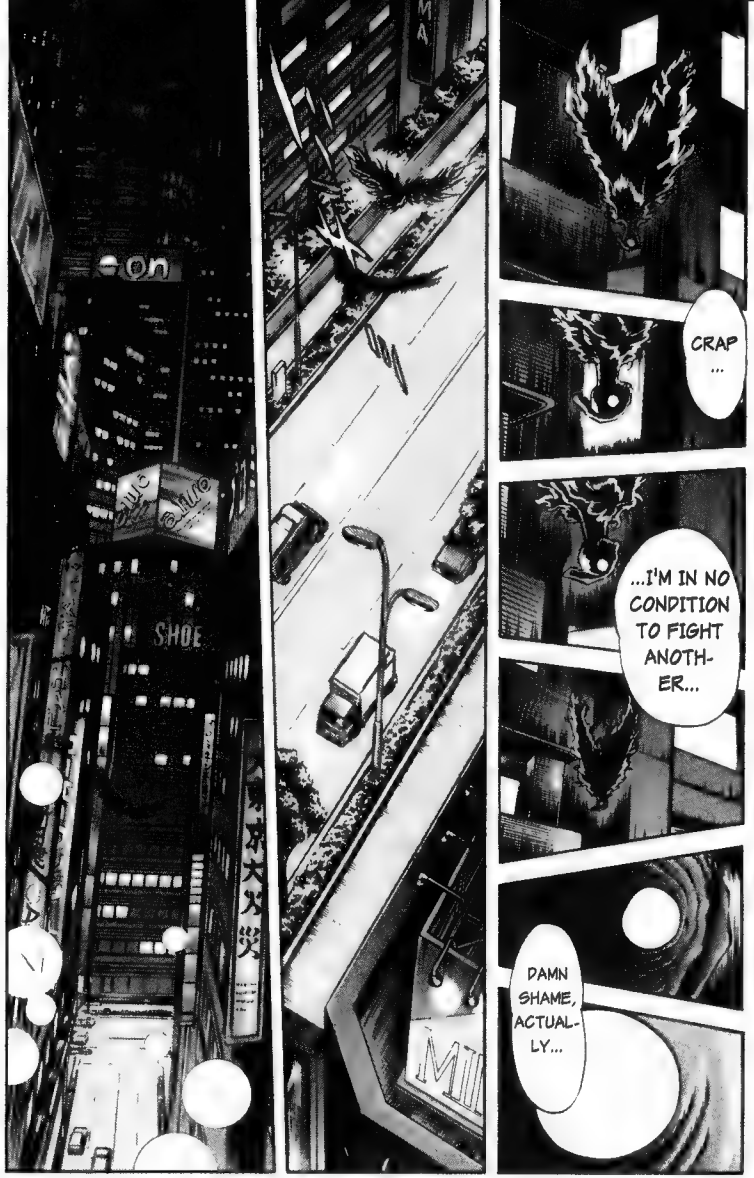
...WHEN IT HITS THE GROUND FROM 800 FEET?
YOU WANNA FIND OUT?
PUB
PUB

YOU EVER WONDER WHAT SOUND A SKULL MAKES, KID...


HUH?

THAT'S ...?!
WHA...


HEY!
SOME DRUNK'S CRASHED OUT ON THE GARBAGE THERE!
ARE YOU SURE?
YEAH...

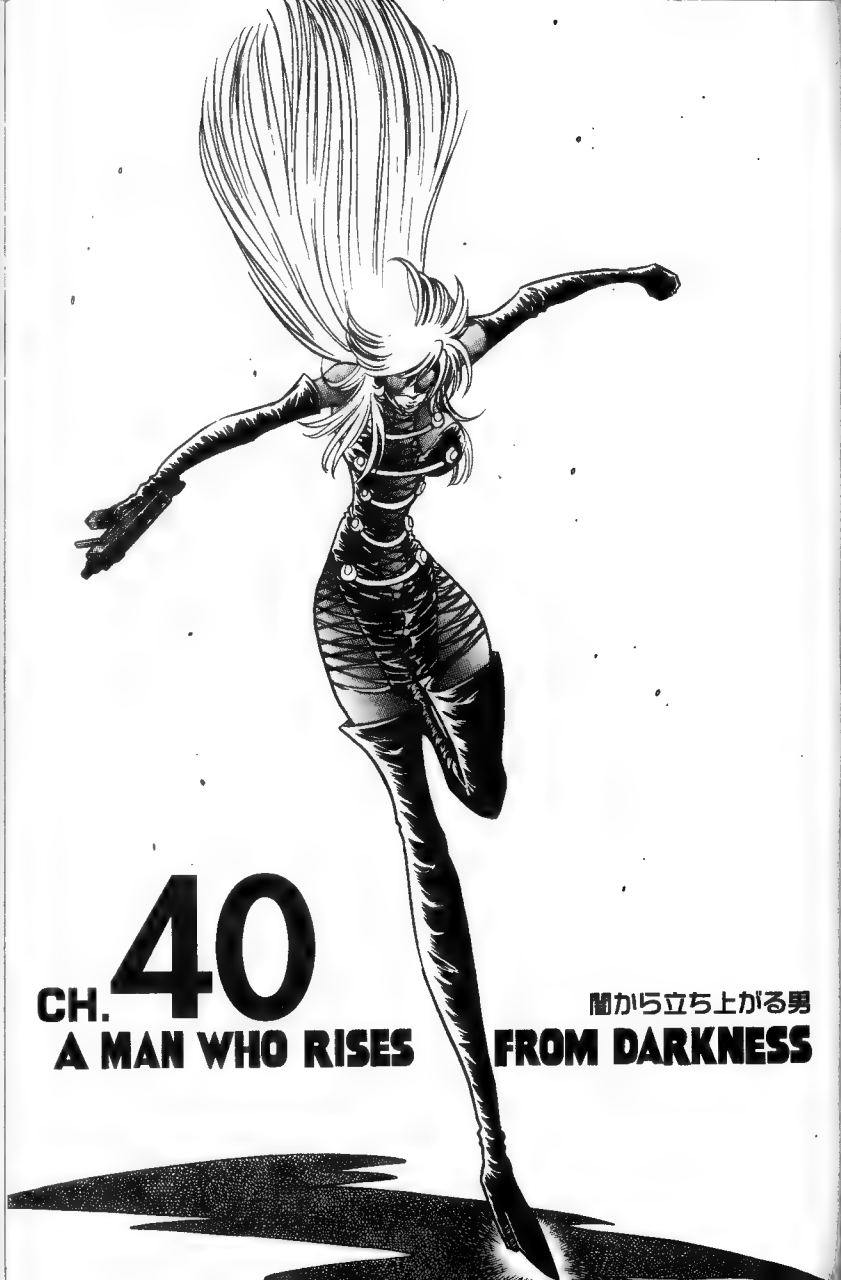

CRAP ...
...I'M IN NO CONDITION TO FIGHT ANOTH-ER...
DAMN SHAME, ACTUAL-LY...

...
WELCOME BACK.
HELLO ...

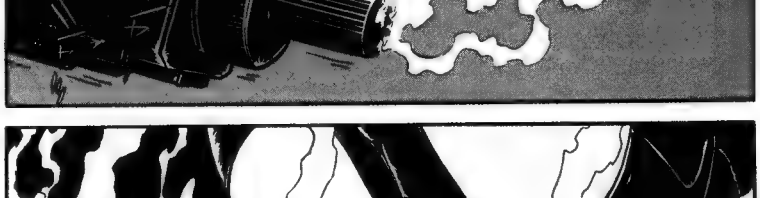
HEH...I'VE ALWAYS LIKED RIPE CORPSES, BUT YOU'RE NOT QUITE WHAT I HAD IN MIND.
WHAT CAN I SAY? IT'S BEEN A ROUGH DAY.
DON'T WORRY. IT'LL ALL BE OVER BEFORE YOU WAKE UP...
...AND YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF FREE OF ALL YOUR LIFE'S CARES.

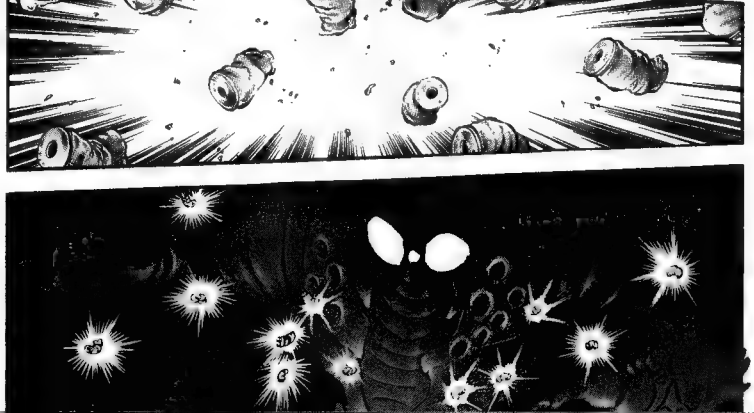
GARO, MY OLD FRIEND!

...I CAN LEAVE MY BODY FOR A WHILE. I'LL NEED YOUR HELP...
NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE...

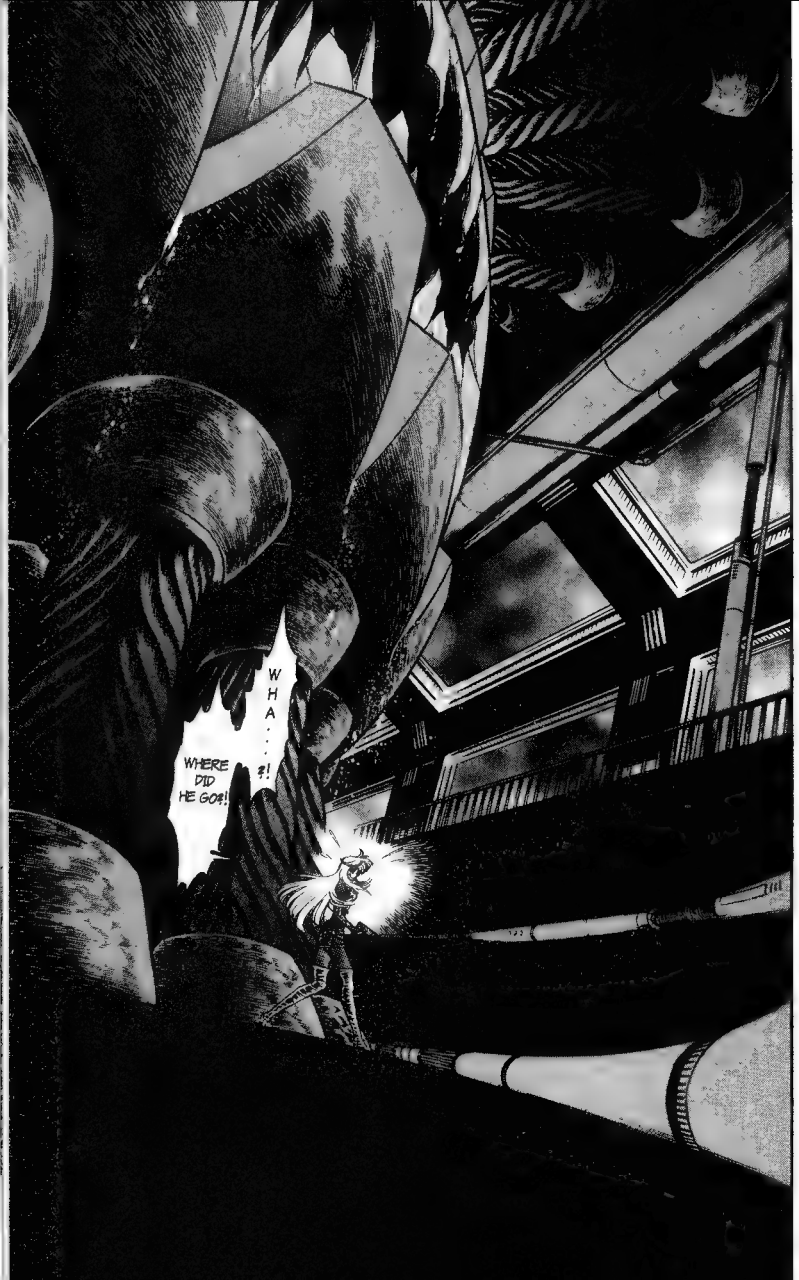


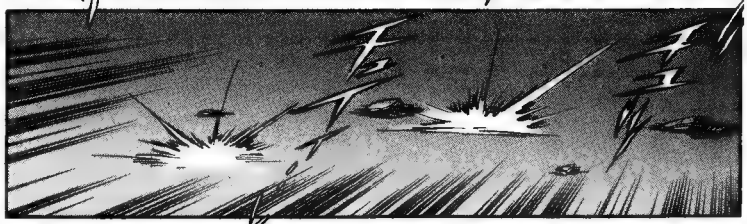
CH. 40
A MAN WHO RISES FROM DARKNESS
闇から立ち上がる男

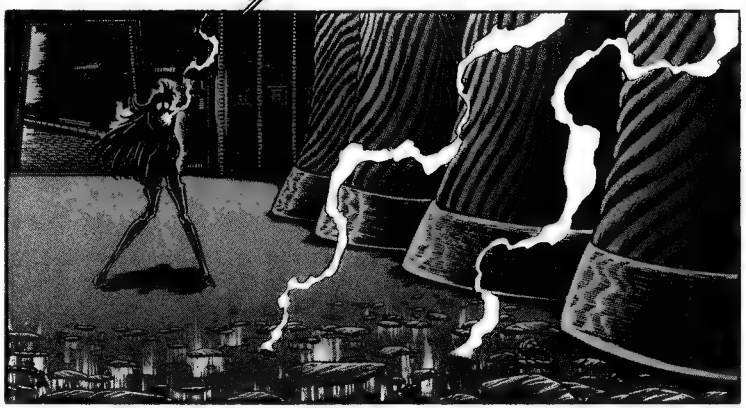


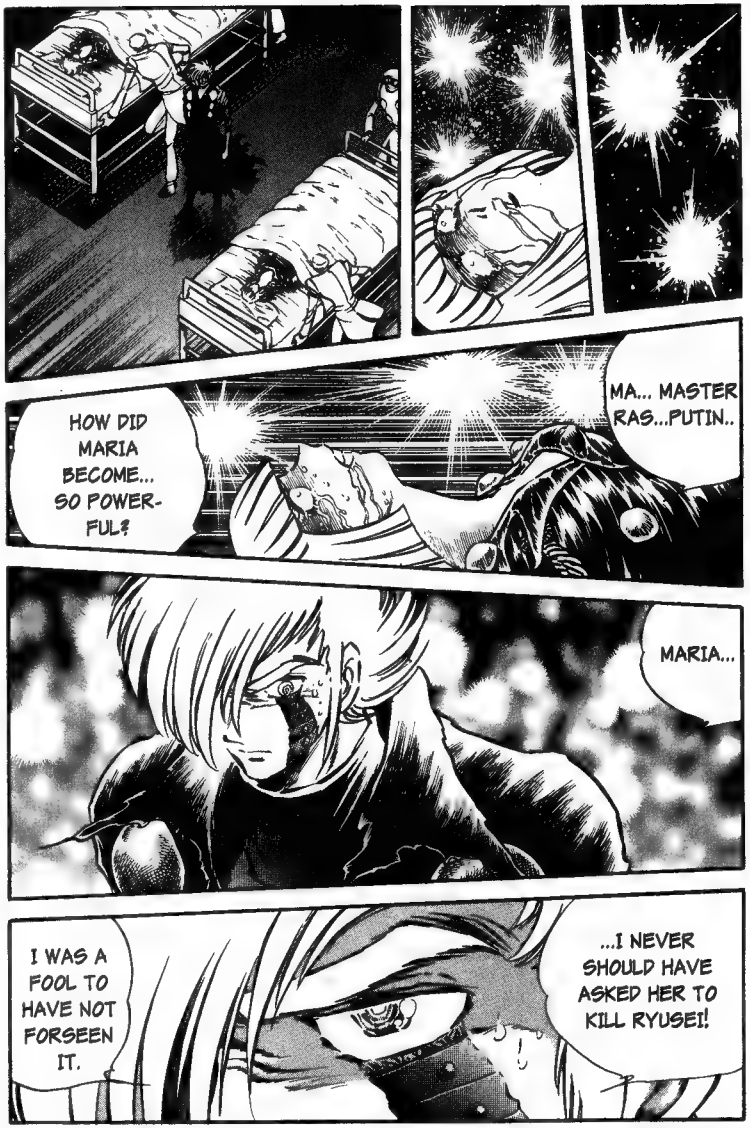


...I'M STILL ALIVE?!
I... I'M...
BUT SHE SHOT ME. I FELT HER BULLETS GO THROUGH MY CHEST!
WHY? HOW?
...NOT EVEN WOUND-ED!
I'M...


WHA...?!
WHERE DID HE GO?!






HOW DID MARIA BECOME... SO POWER-FUL?
MA... MASTER RAS...PUTIN..
MARIA...
I WAS A FOOL TO HAVE NOT FORSEEN IT.
...I NEVER SHOULD HAVE ASKED HER TO KILL RYUSEI!

.....

ASSEMBLE UNITS AT FACTORY NO. 2, SECTION E-4...
...WE HAVE A LEVEL 4 ALPHA INTRUDER IN THE FACTORY SECTION. NEUTRALIZE IMMEDIATELY.
G3, YAMORI. G4, TOKAGI...
...DISPATCH FORCES TO STOP MARIA.
SOMEHOW, DURING THEIR LAST BATTLE, THEY MUST HAVE MELDED!
HER POWERS WERE ALWAYS SIMILAR TO RYUSEI'S.

USE EXTREME CAUTION!!
THE INTRUDER IS ARMED, AND HAS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS PSYCHIC POWERS.

WHA...
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE, MARIA!
DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND? YOU'RE A PART OF ME NOW...
YOU NEED ME, MARIA.
YOU NEED MY POWER...
...MY VERY SOUL!

DON'T BOTHER ...
...YOU ONLY THINK YOU SEE ME.
I'M NOT PHYSI-CALLY HERE.
MY CONSCIOUS-NESS, HOWEVER...
...IS IN YOUR MIND!!

MARIA, WE STILL MAY BE able TO SEPARATE...
IT WAS MY MISTAKE. I NEVER THOUGHT OUR SOULS WOULD BOND TOGETHER LIKE THIS.
NO...!
...YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME, SWEET-HEART.
FOR RICH OR FOR POOR, THROUGH SICKNESS AND HEALTH...

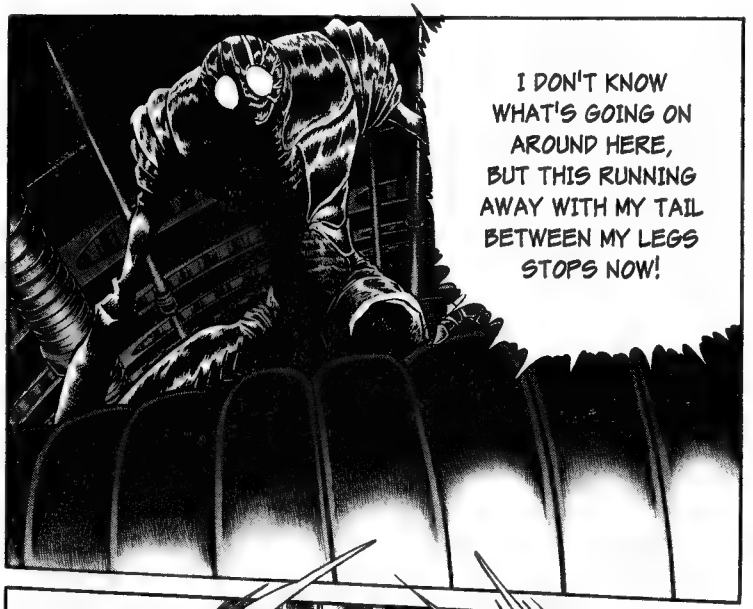
A... ALL RIGHT!
IN ORDER TO DO THAT, I'LL NEED TO USE YOUR BODY...
...BUT FIRST WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.

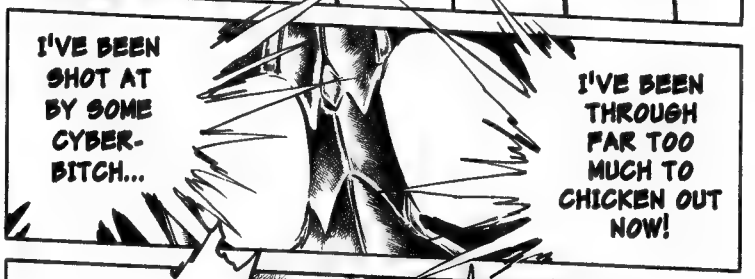
WHAT THE HELL ARE THESE THINGS ?!!
WHA...

HUH?
WHERE AM I...
DAMN... THIS MUST BE SOME SORT OF DREAM...
WHAT'S HAPPENED... TO ME?
AND IF IT IS A DREAM...
...THEN WHY THE HELL AM I STILL RUNNING LIKE A COWARD?!!

UHH!
WHA ...?!
ECH ...
LOOK INTO MY EYES!!
...MY EYES.
LOOK INTO...
HEH HEH HEH

SO, THEY'VE TURNED ME INTO A MONSTER ?!
THEN LET'S SEE WHAT THIS MONSTER CAN DO!!


I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE, BUT THIS RUNNING AWAY WITH MY TAIL BETWEEN MY LEGS STOPS NOW!

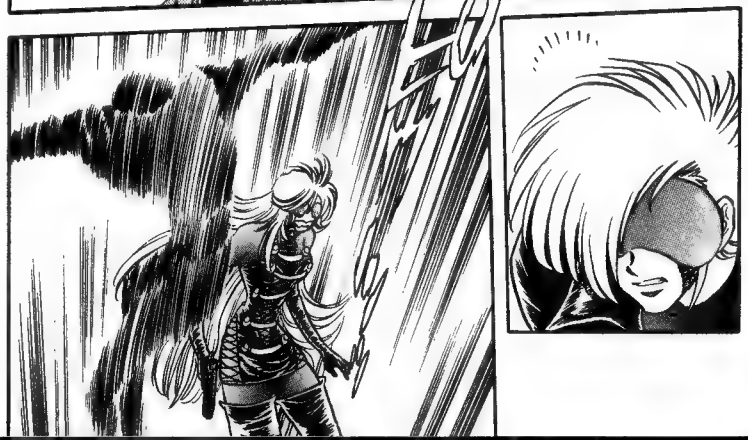

I'VE BEEN SHOT AT BY SOME CYBER-BITCH...
I'VE BEEN THROUGH FAR TOO MUCH TO CHICKEN OUT NOW!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH !!!
...I LOOK LIKE A DAMN PRAYING MANTIS...

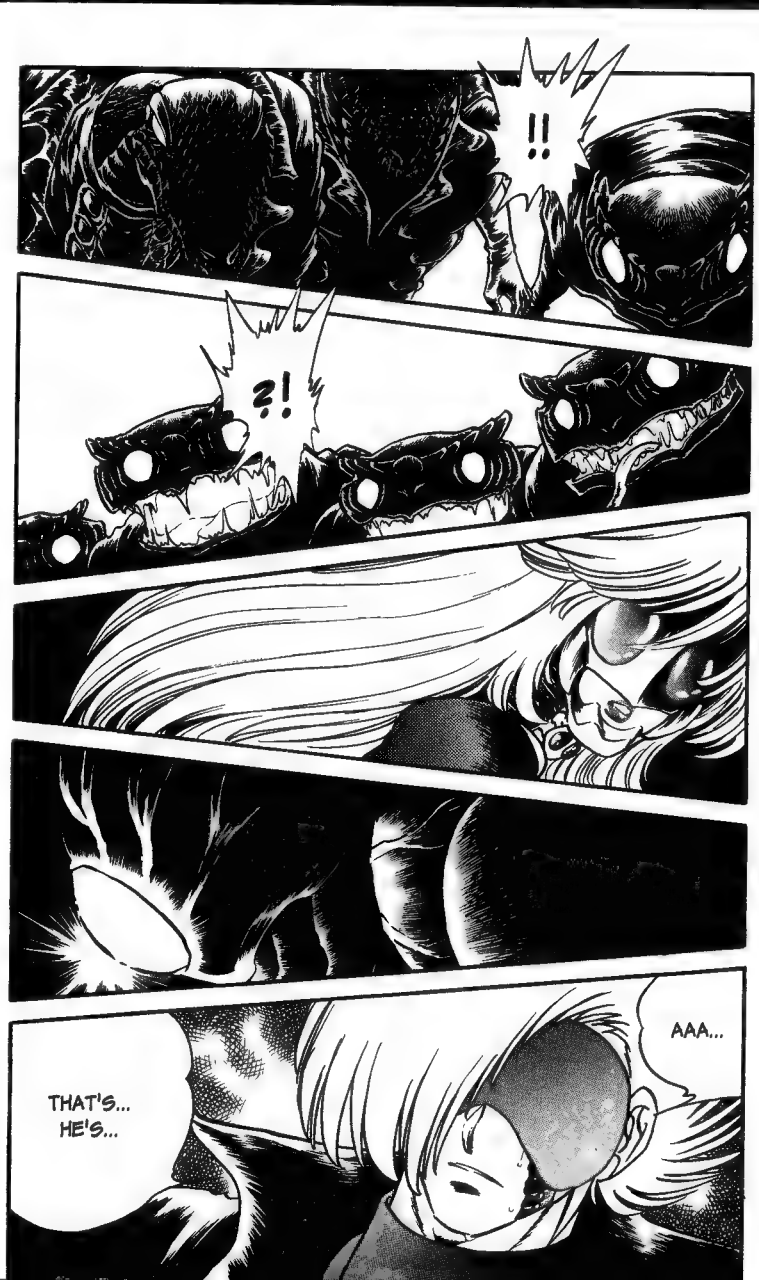
LET'S SEE THAT SLIMY CHIEF HOLD ME BACK...
...NOW THAT I'M REALLY GONNA TAKE A BITE OUTTA CRIME!!!
HEH! A MONSTER COP?!
LET THEM RUN FROM ME FOR A CHANGE !!!
THEY'LL ALL WAKE UP SCREAM-ING!!!
I'LL TURN THIS DREAM INTO A NIGHT-MARE!!!

HEE HEE...
HA HA HA HA !!

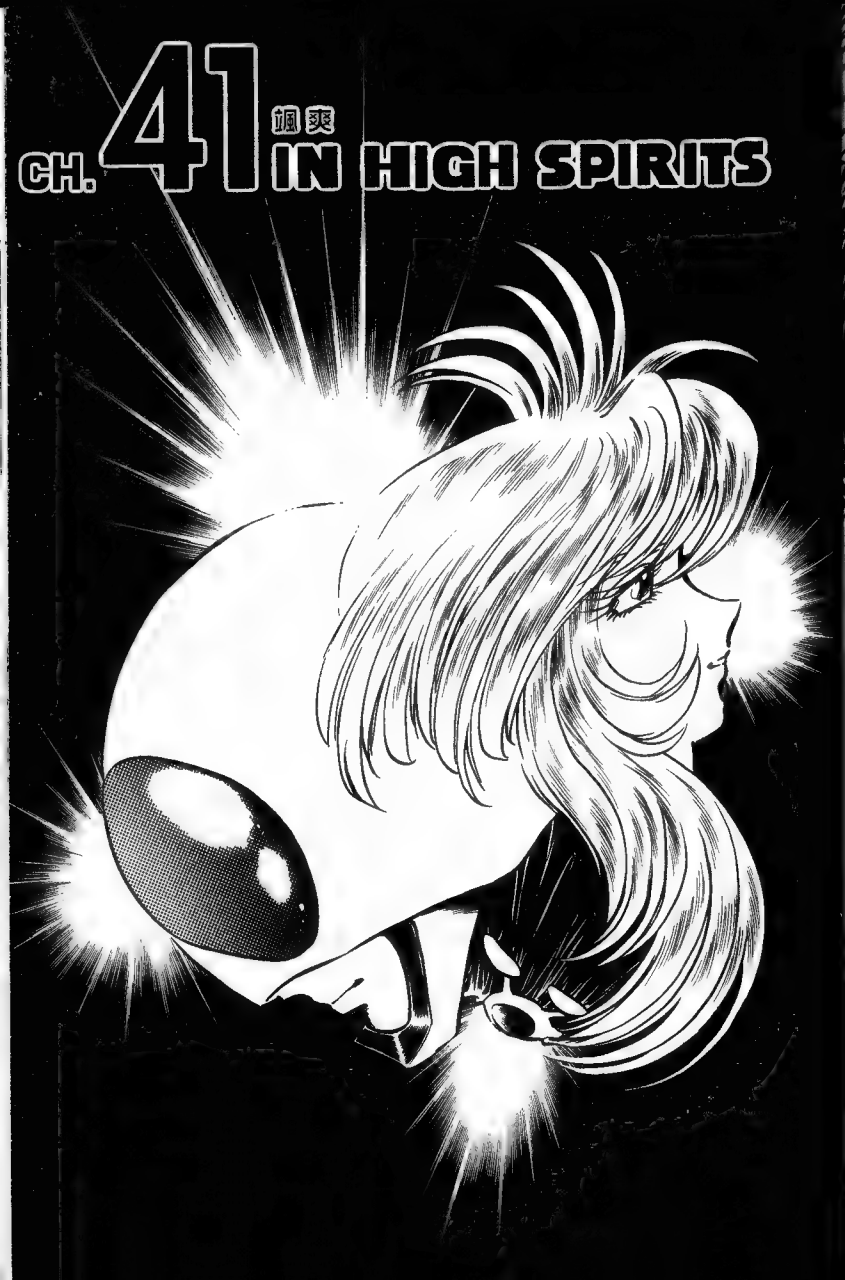
I'VE GOT YOU NOW!
IT'S OVER, MARIA.
I'M GOING TO DRAIN YOUR SKULL OF EVERY-THING YOU KNOW!



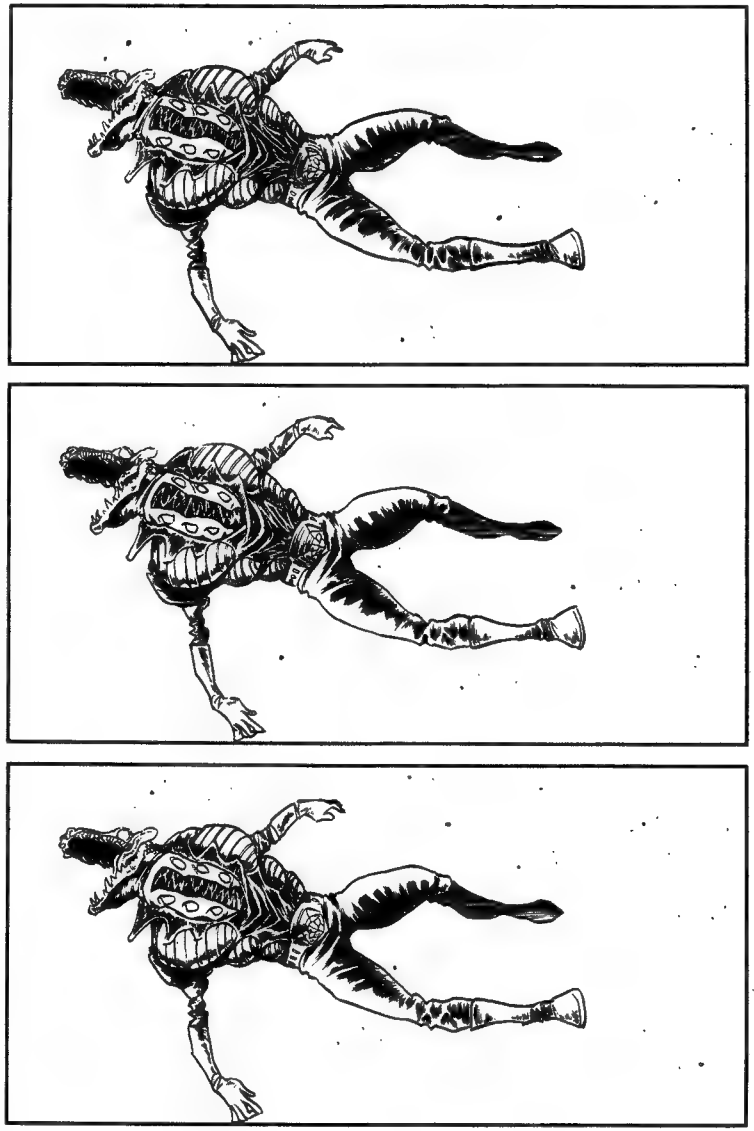
YAAHHH!!

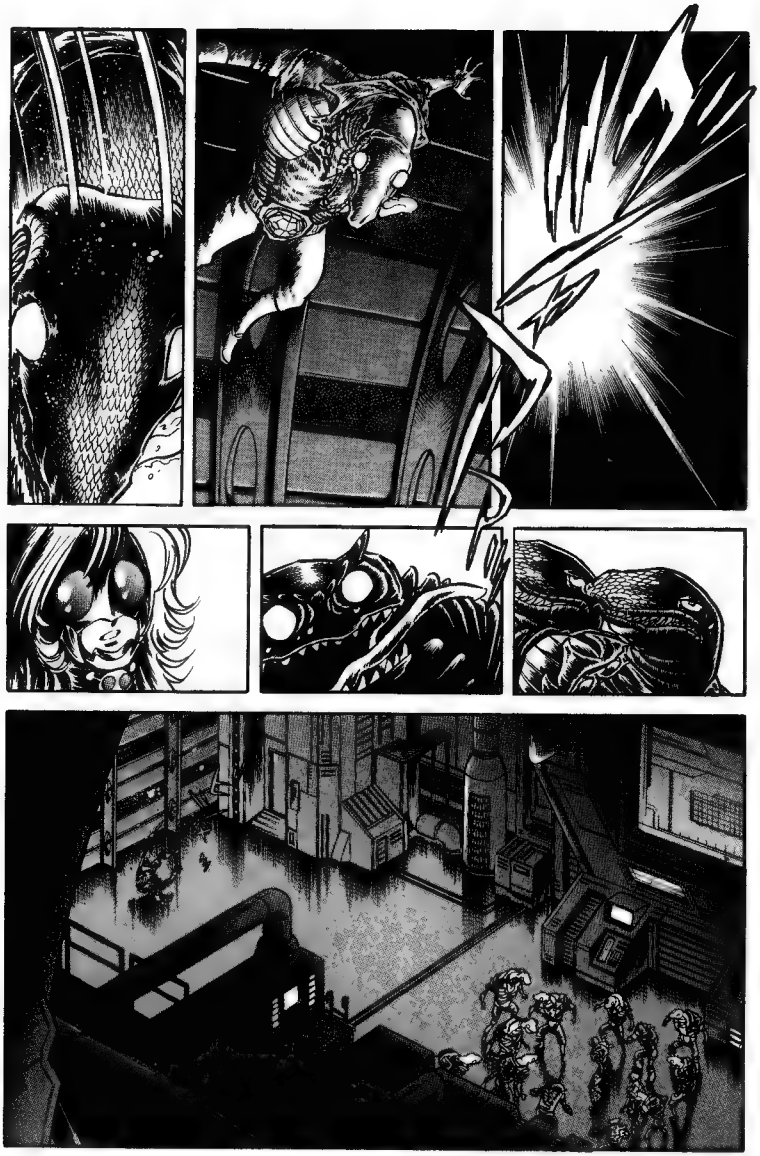

!!
?!
AAA...
THAT'S...
HE'S...

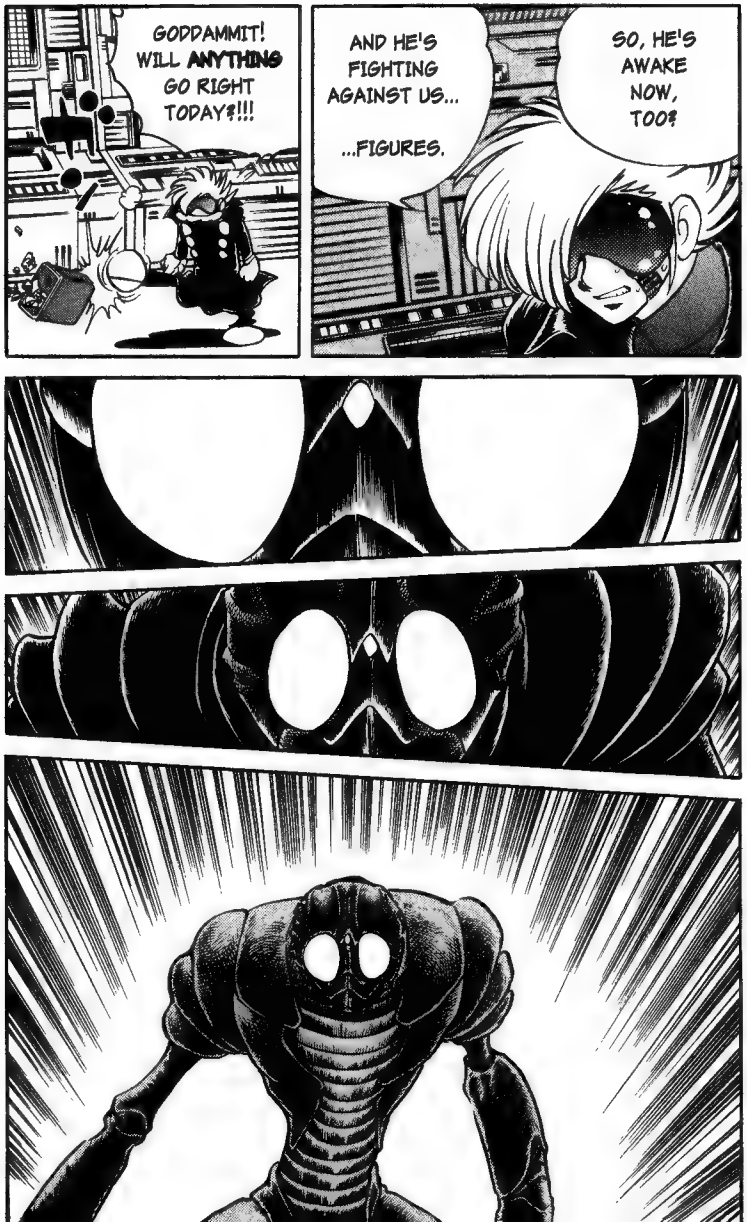
CH. 41 颯爽 IN HIGH SPIRITS

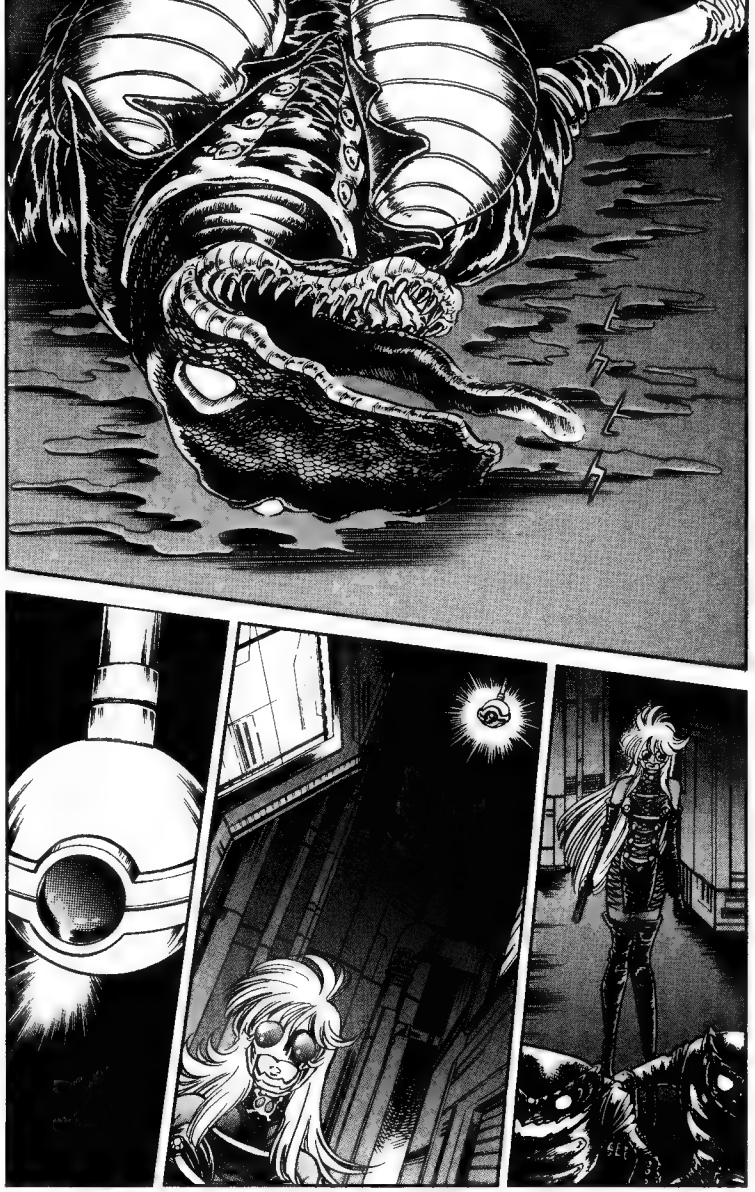


AKUOH!!

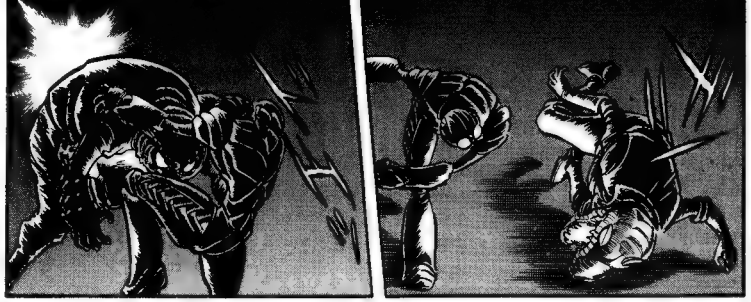


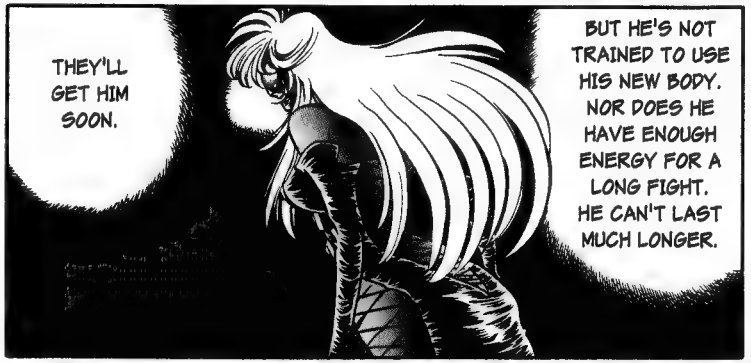



GODDAMMIT! WILL ANYTHING GO RIGHT TODAY?!!!
AND HE'S FIGHTING AGAINST US...
...FIGURES.
SO, HE'S AWAKE NOW, TOO?

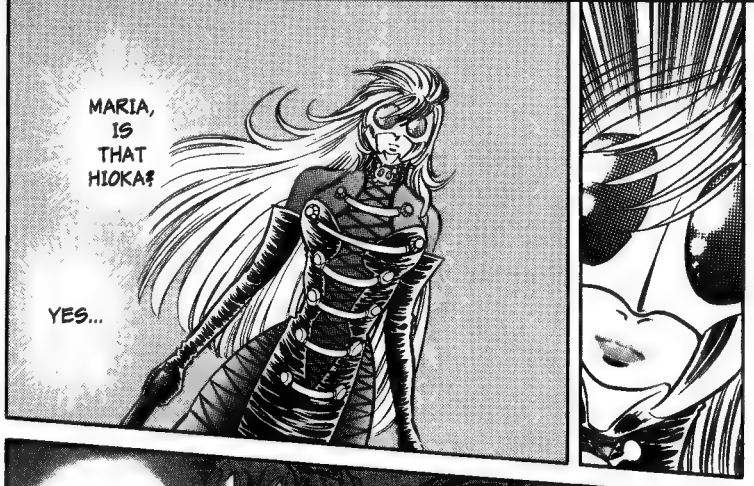


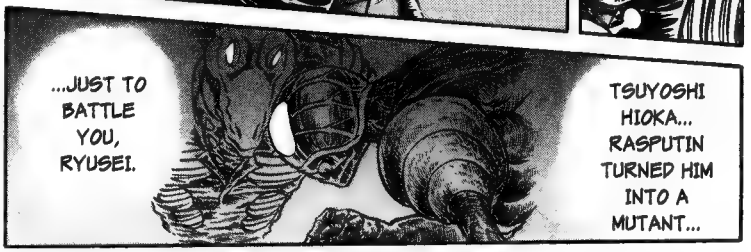
WHAT'S THE MATTER...
...NOT USED TO FIGHTING GUYS AS STRONG AS YOU?!

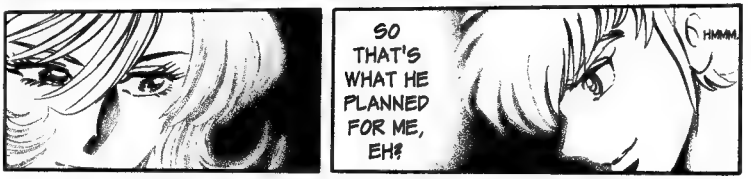


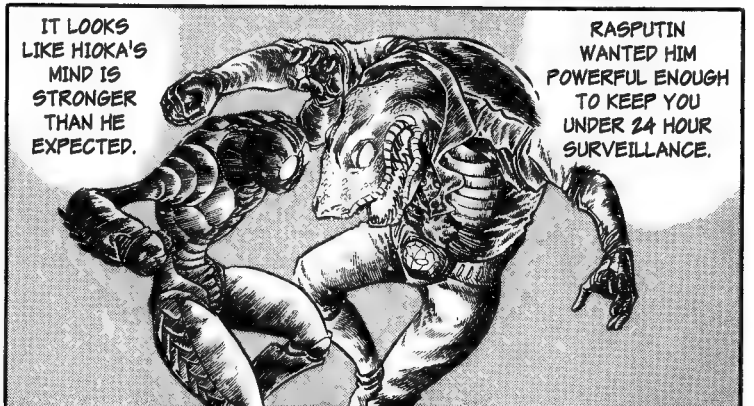

THEY'LL GET HIM SOON.
BUT HE'S NOT TRAINED TO USE HIS NEW BODY. NOR DOES HE HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY FOR A LONG FIGHT. HE CAN'T LAST MUCH LONGER.

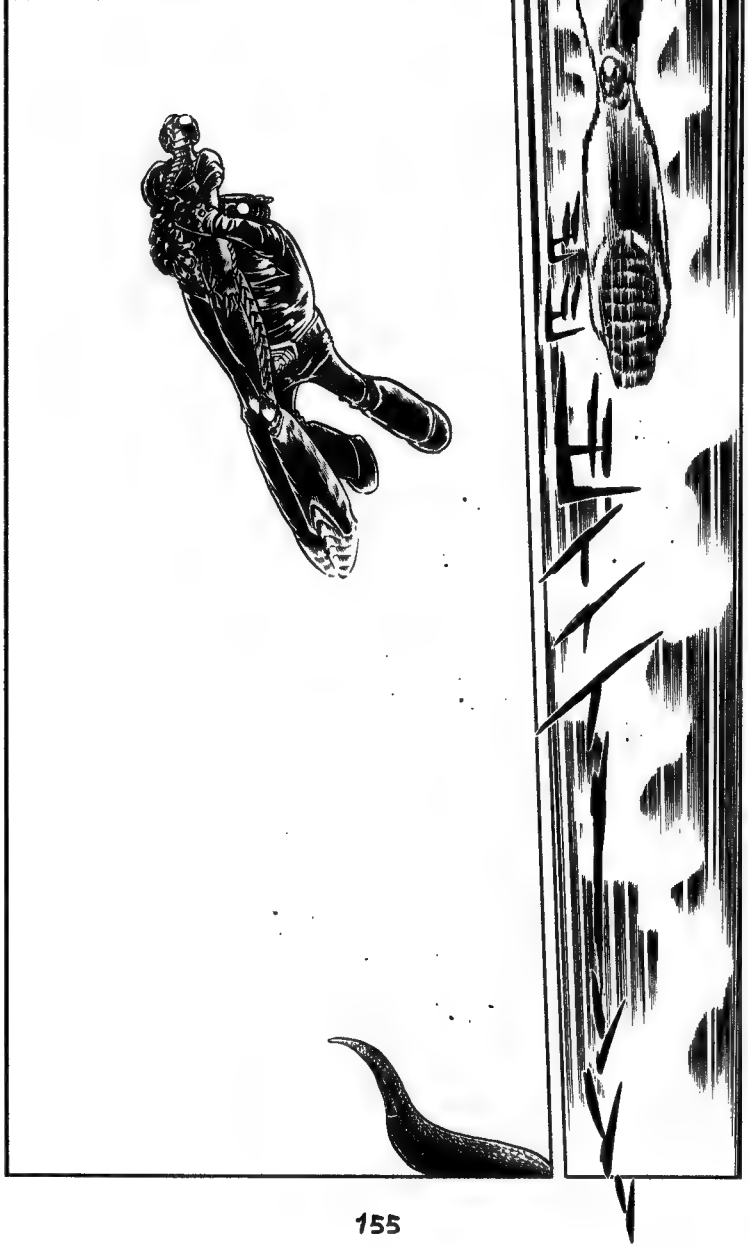
SO THEY PROBABLY MADE HIM LIKE THOSE BUGS THAT STAY HIDDEN FOR LONG PERIODS WITHOUT USING MUCH ENERGY...
YOU SAID THEY WANTED HIM TO TAIL ME 24/7?

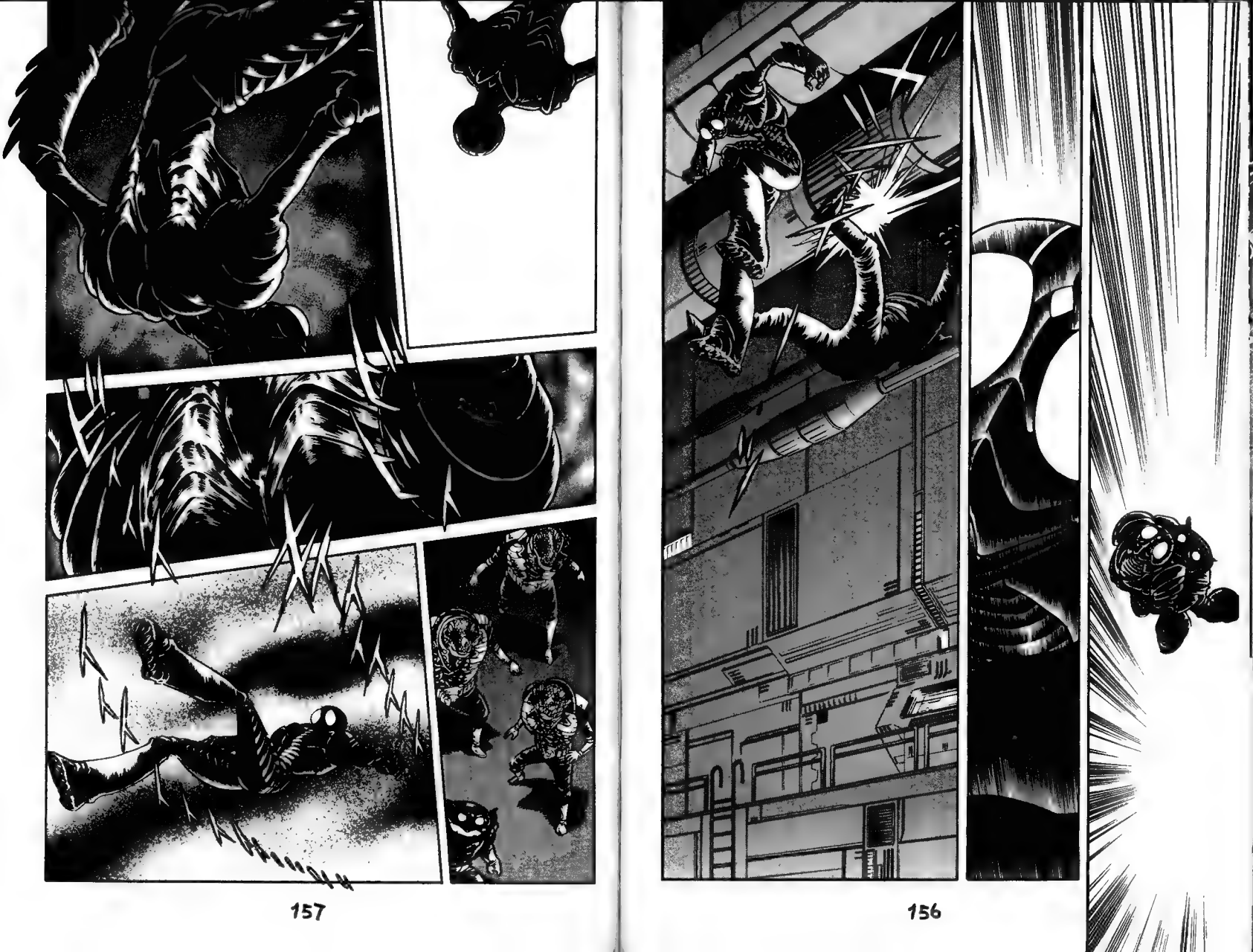

MARIA, IS THAT HIOKA?
YES...

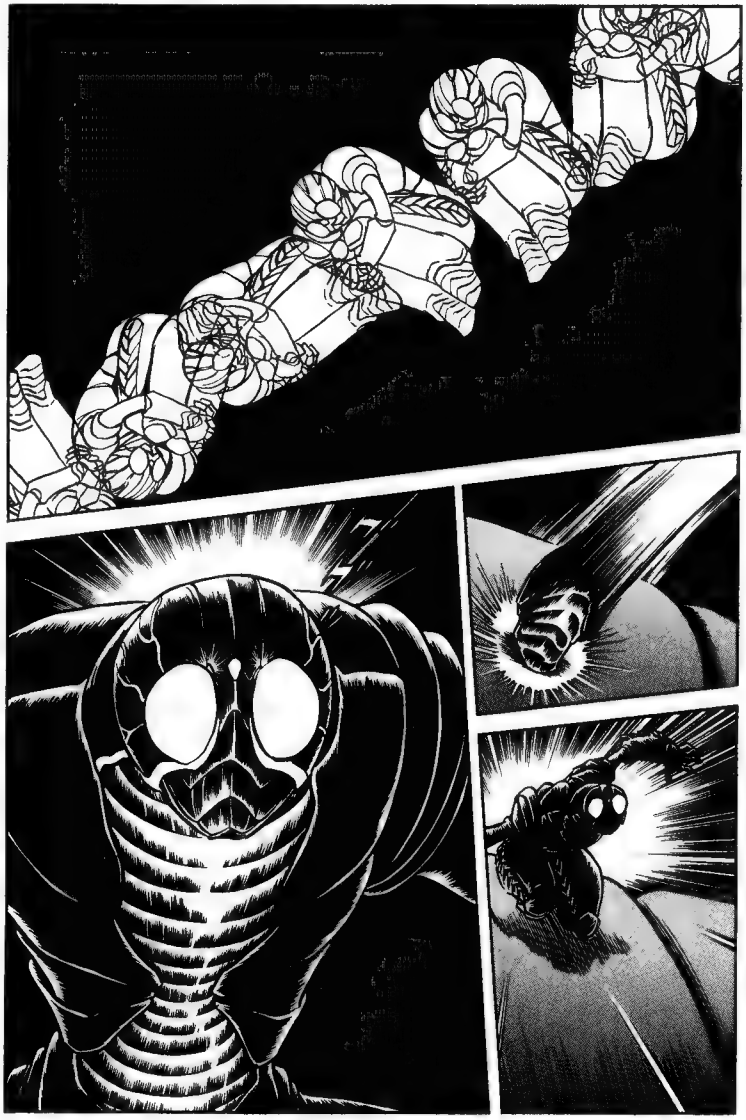

...JUST TO BATTLE YOU, RYUSEI.
TSUYOSHI HIOKA... RASPUTIN TURNED HIM INTO A MUTANT...


SO THAT'S WHAT HE PLANNED FOR ME, EH?
HMMM


IT LOOKS LIKE HIOKA'S MIND IS STRONGER THAN HE EXPECTED.
RASPUTIN WANTED HIM POWERFUL ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU UNDER 24 HOUR SURVEILLANCE.

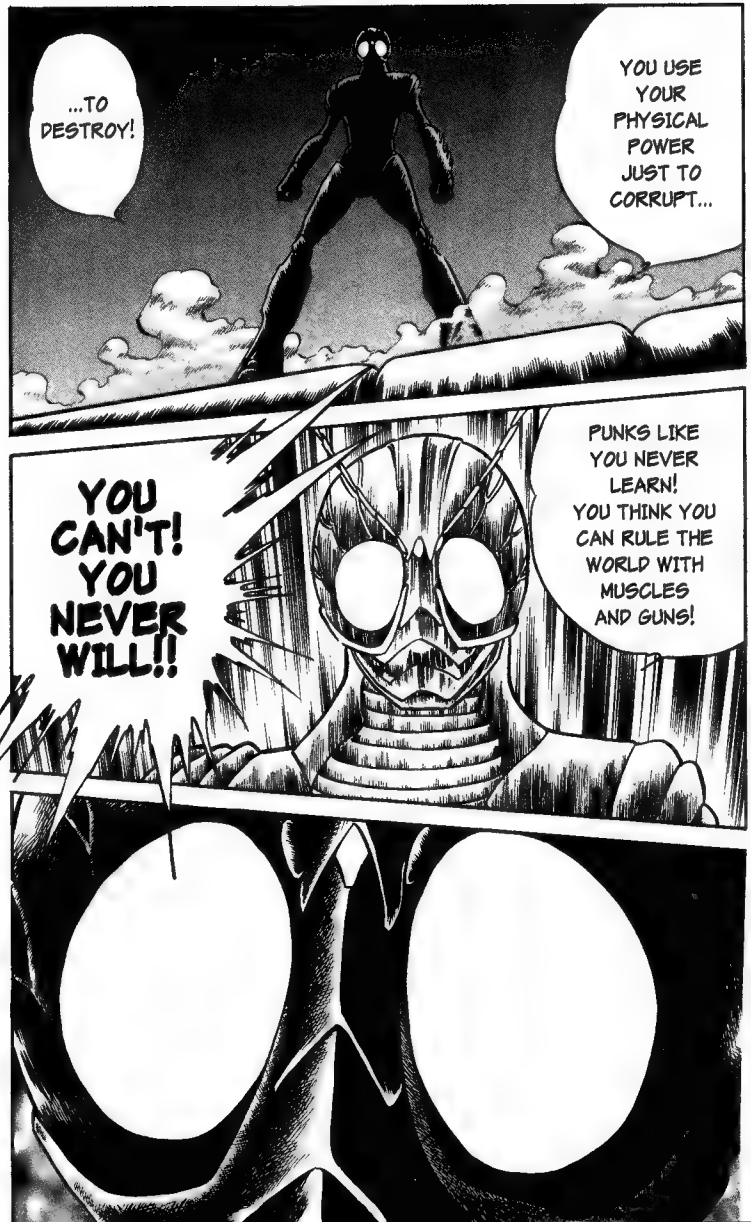






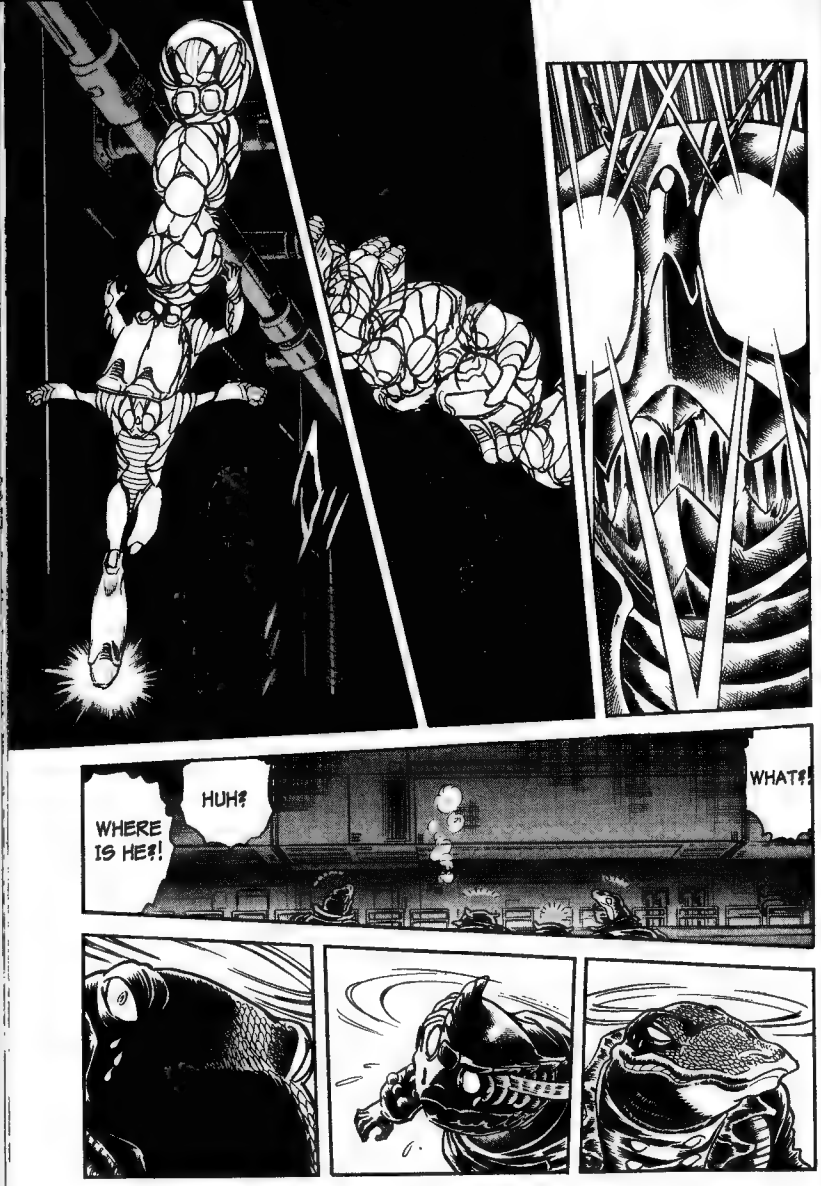
IT'S FROM HIS WINGS!!
WH... WHAT THE HELL IS THIS NOISE?
I SEE... MINIATURE WINGS TO BALANCE HIMSELF IN MIDAIR.
I GOTTA HAND IT TO HIM, THE GUY'S REALLY GOOD AT IMPROVISING.
THIS IS...

NGGH!
GG

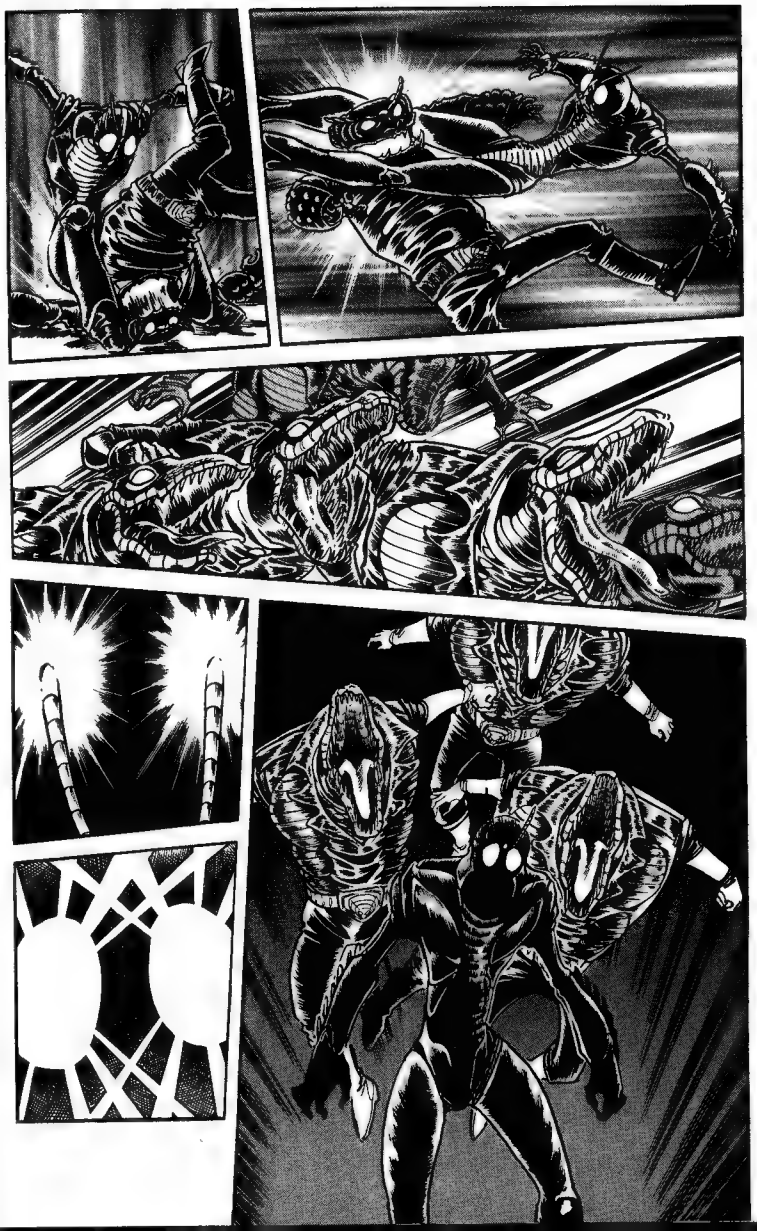

...TO DESTROY!
YOU USE YOUR PHYSICAL POWER JUST TO CORRUPT...
YOU CAN'T! YOU NEVER WILL!!
PUNKS LIKE YOU NEVER LEARN! YOU THINK YOU CAN RULE THE WORLD WITH MUSCLES AND GUNS!

THE POWER OF INNER STRENGTH!
THIS IS THE REAL POWER!
HUH?
A MORAL LECTURE?
WHAT DOES HE THINK THIS IS... A DREAM?!!

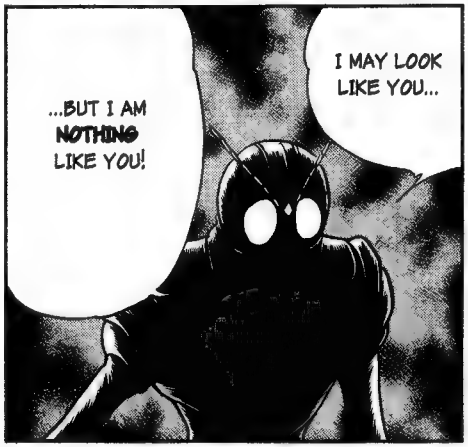
...YOU MAIM AND KILL THE INNOCENT.
WELL...
YOU FREAKS JUST DESTROY ALL THAT'S GOOD IN THE WORLD...
...NOT ON MY BEAT!

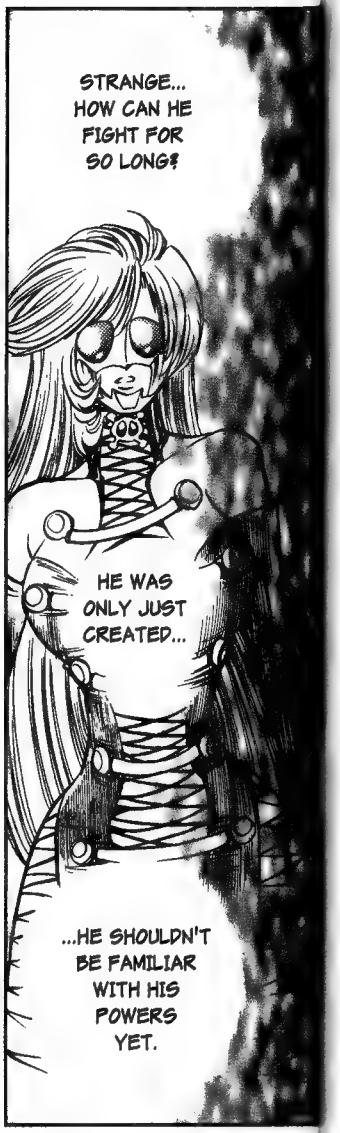

WHERE IS HE?!
HUH?
WHAT?!

IT'S TIME TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH!!



GGG... IF WE'RE MONSTERS, SO ARE YOU.
HAVE YOU SEEN A MIRROR LATELY?
YOU'RE ONE OF US.

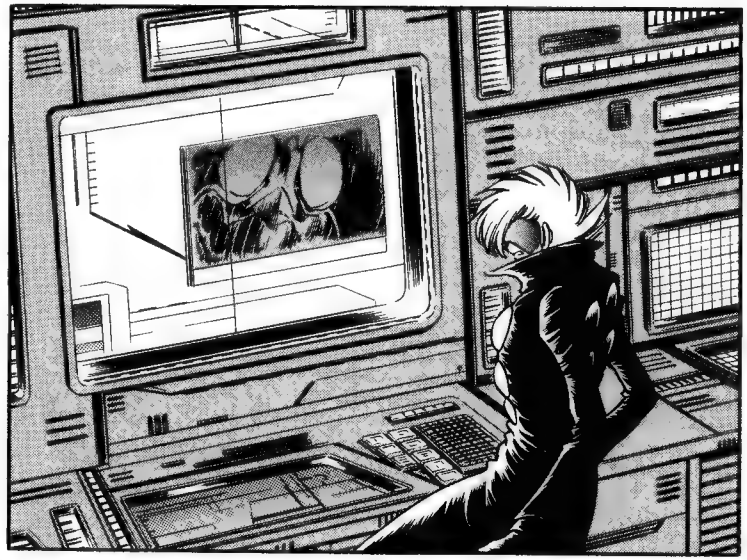

I MAY LOOK LIKE YOU...
...BUT I AM NOTHING LIKE YOU!

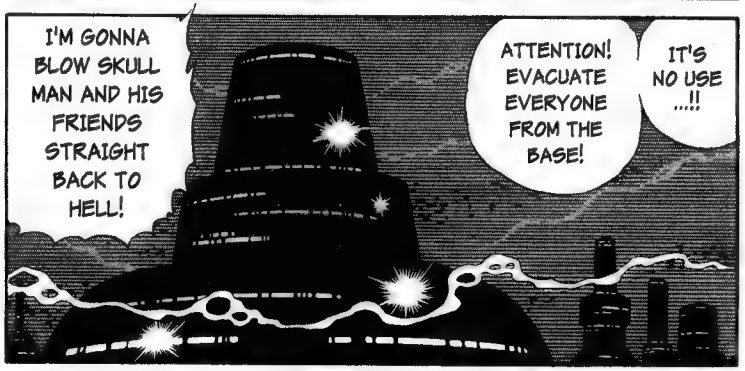

STRANGE... HOW CAN HE FIGHT FOR SO LONG?
HE WAS ONLY JUST CREATED...
...HE SHOULDN'T BE FAMILIAR WITH HIS POWERS YET.

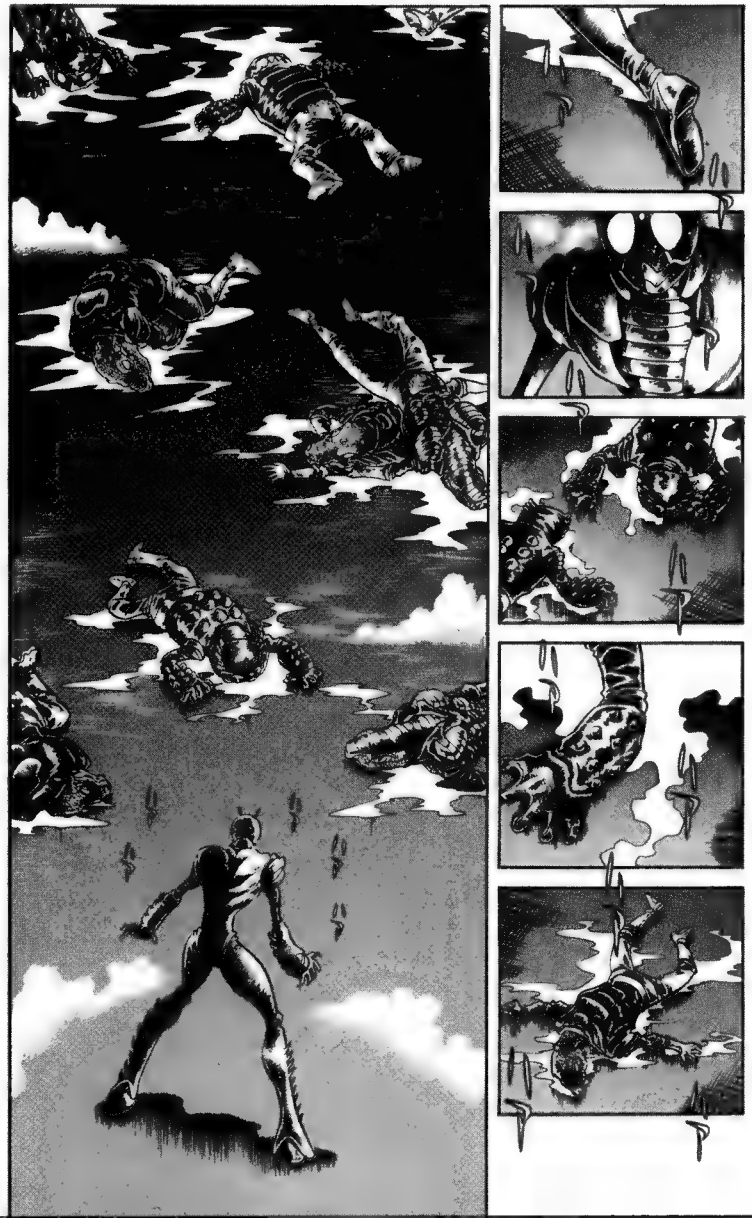
OH SHIT...
GG...
LADIES AND GENTLE-MEN...
...IT'S KICK-ASS TIME!!

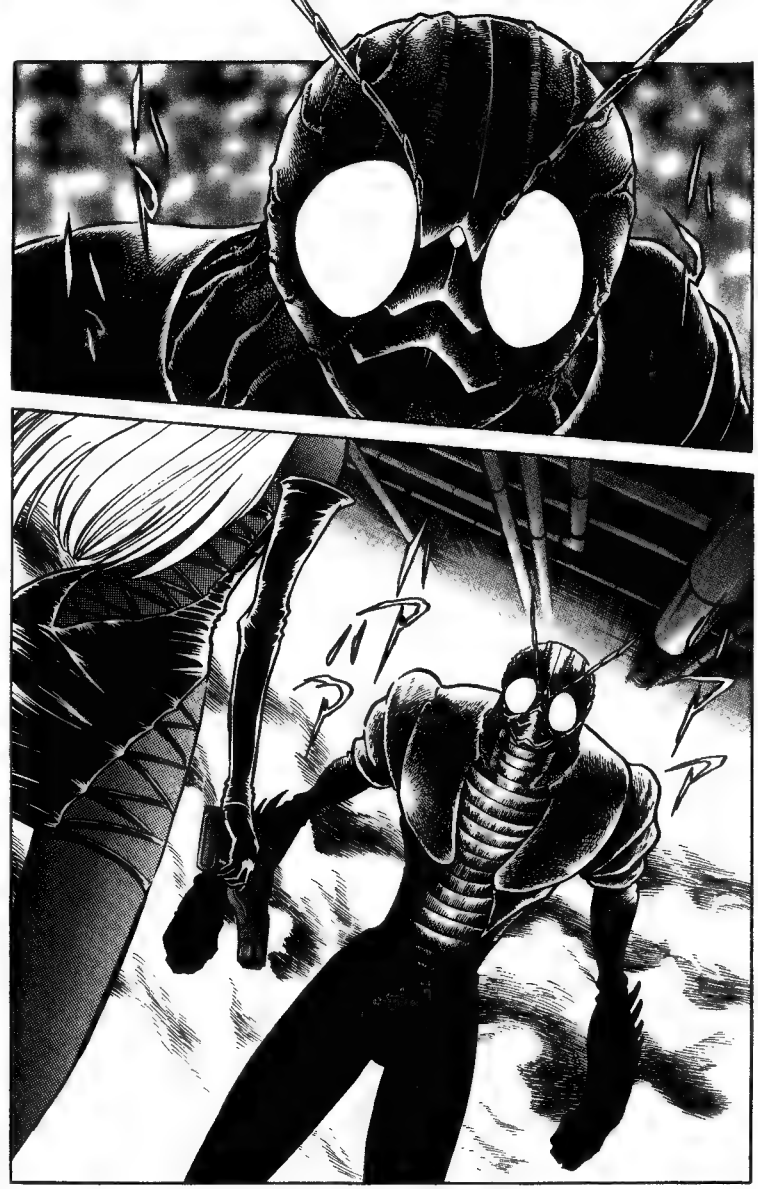
I FIGHT FOR WHAT'S JUST AND RIGHT!
AND I'LL USE THIS MONSTER POWER TO FIGHT FOR GOOD!
SO I'M A SUPER-FREAK NOW?
THEN I'LL BE A SUPER-FREAKIN' HERO!

CH. 42 海の底で… UNDERSEAS…

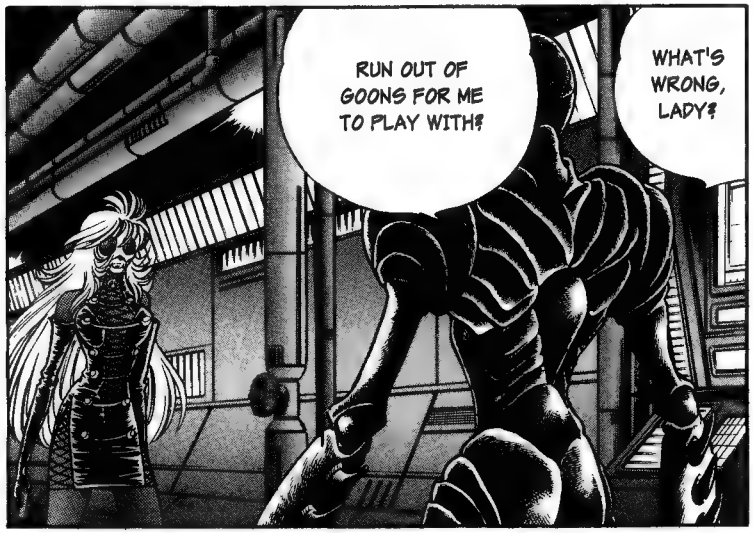








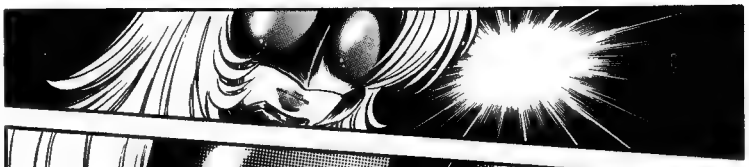
HUFF HUFF ...
HA HA HA!


WHAT'S WRONG, LADY?
RUN OUT OF GOONS FOR ME TO PLAY WITH?

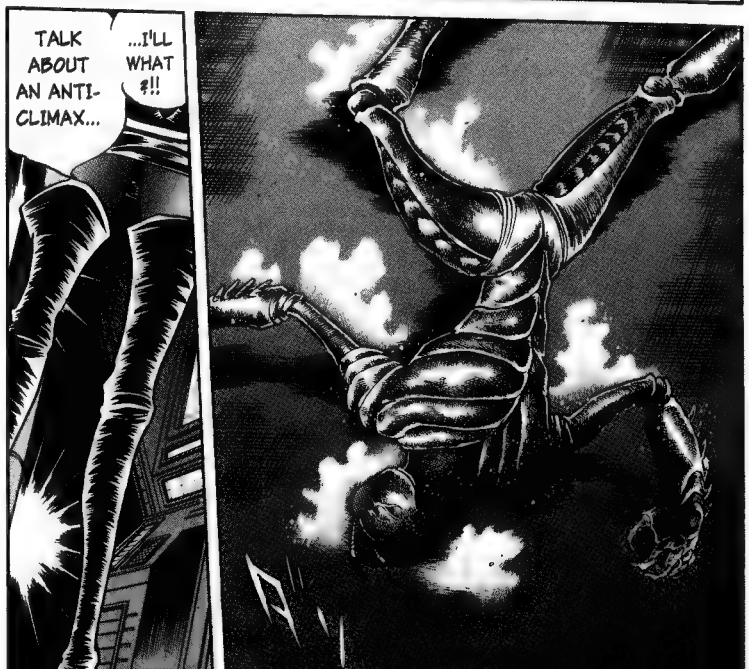
NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU MAKE YOURSELF...
...THERE WILL ALWAYS BE PEOPLE WILLING TO STAND UP TO YOU.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE, EVENTUALLY THEY'LL WIN. SOMEDAY YOU'RE GOING DOWN!

AN' THEN
YOU'LL...
YOU'LL...

REST AND RENEW YOUR STRENGTH, HIOKA.

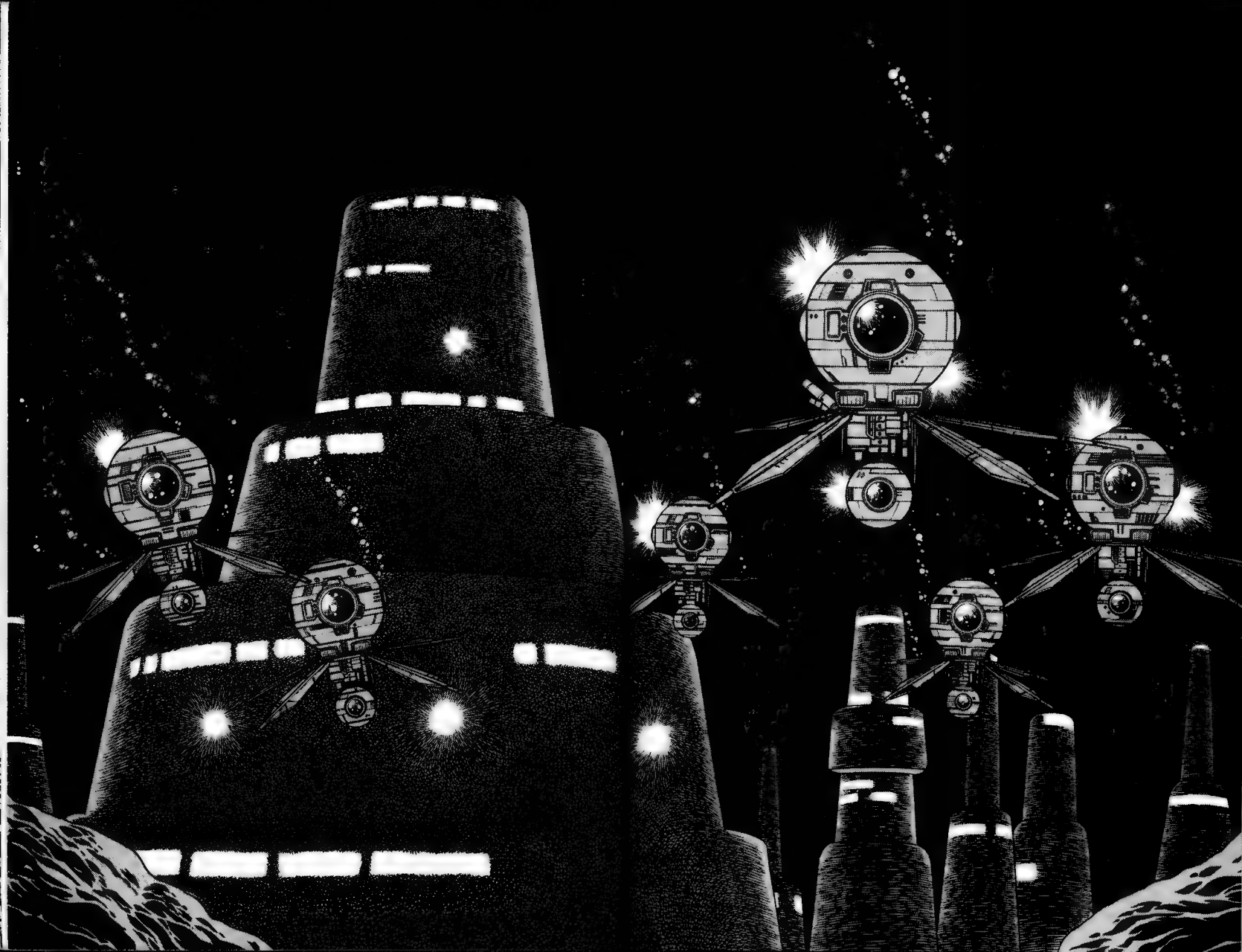


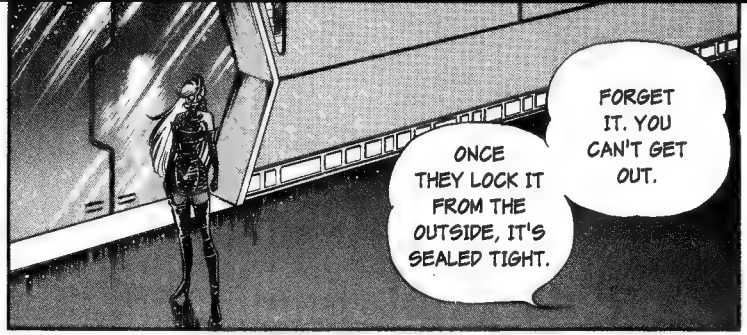
IT'S SUDDENLY QUIET OUTSIDE. LIKE EVERYTHING'S SHUT DOWN...
MARIA, DO YOU FEEL THAT?!


TALK ABOUT AN ANTI-CLIMAX...
...I'LL WHAT?!!

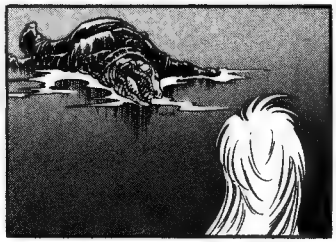
UH-OH!
SHIT!

RASPUTIN MUST BE DESTROYING THE BASE!
AN ALARM?
TAMING YOU HAS PROVEN MORE DIFFICULT THAN EXPECTED....
SO LONG, MARIA!!
I HAVE NO CHOICE. YOU'VE BECOME FAR TOO POWERFUL FOR ME TO LET YOU LIVE.
...SO I'M DESTROYING THIS BASE... AND YOU WITH IT.




FORGET IT. YOU CAN'T GET OUT.
ONCE THEY LOCK IT FROM THE OUTSIDE, IT'S SEALED TIGHT.

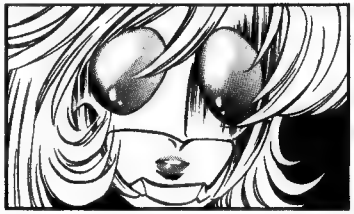
HEH HEH...
A LOT OF US WERE CREATED HERE...



...THEY MADE THIS SPECIAL ROOM.
THAT'S WHY, FOR SITUATIONS LIKE JUST THIS...

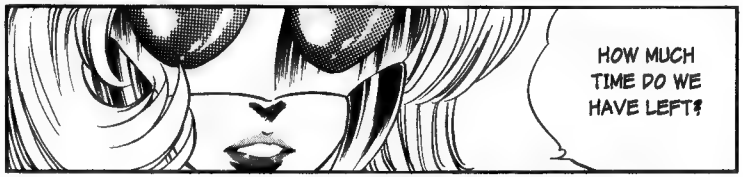
THERE WERE PLENTY OF MISTAKES, LIKE YOUR PAL THERE...
THEY MAKE 'EM POWERFUL, BUT SOMETIMES THEY GO WILD, OUTTA CONTROL.

YOU'RE NOT THE MARIA I REMEMBER.
WHO ARE YOU, LADY?

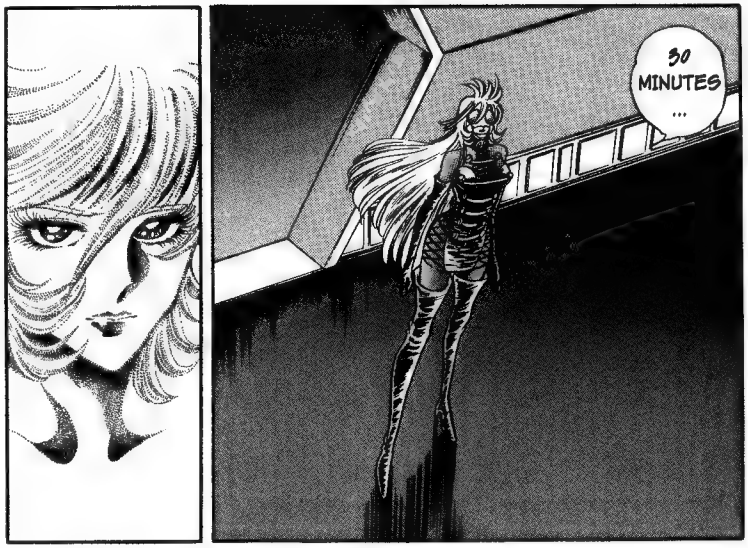


...NONE OF IT MATTERS ANY MORE.
OH, WELL...

...IT'S BOOM!
THE SECOND HE LOSES CONTROL...
HE PANICS WHEN THINGS START GOING WRONG...
RASPUTIN'S ABOUT TO BLOW UP THE WHOLE BASE... ALL BECAUSE OF YOU.

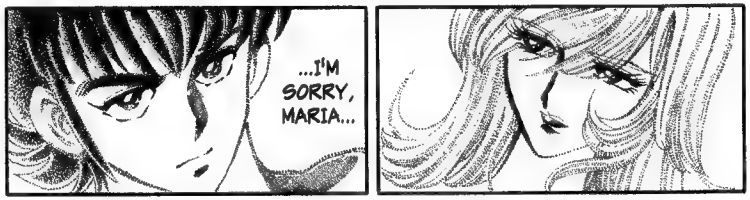

HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE LEFT?

...THEY'LL PROBABLY NEED ANOTHER 30 MINUTES TO EVACUATE EVERYONE...
UH, WELL...

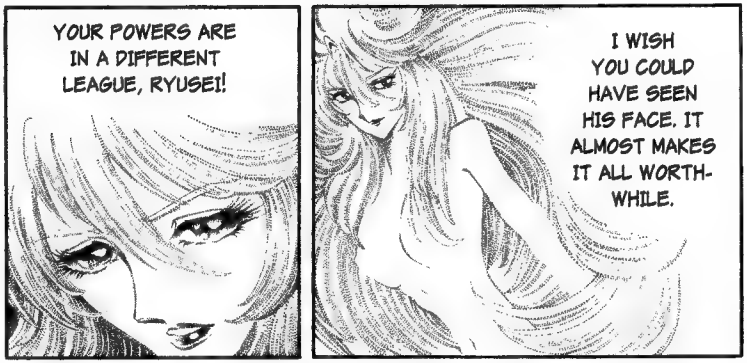

30 MINUTES ...

RYUSEI...
...I THINK IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GO. LEAVE MY MIND AND ESCAPE.

NO...


...I'M SORRY, MARIA...

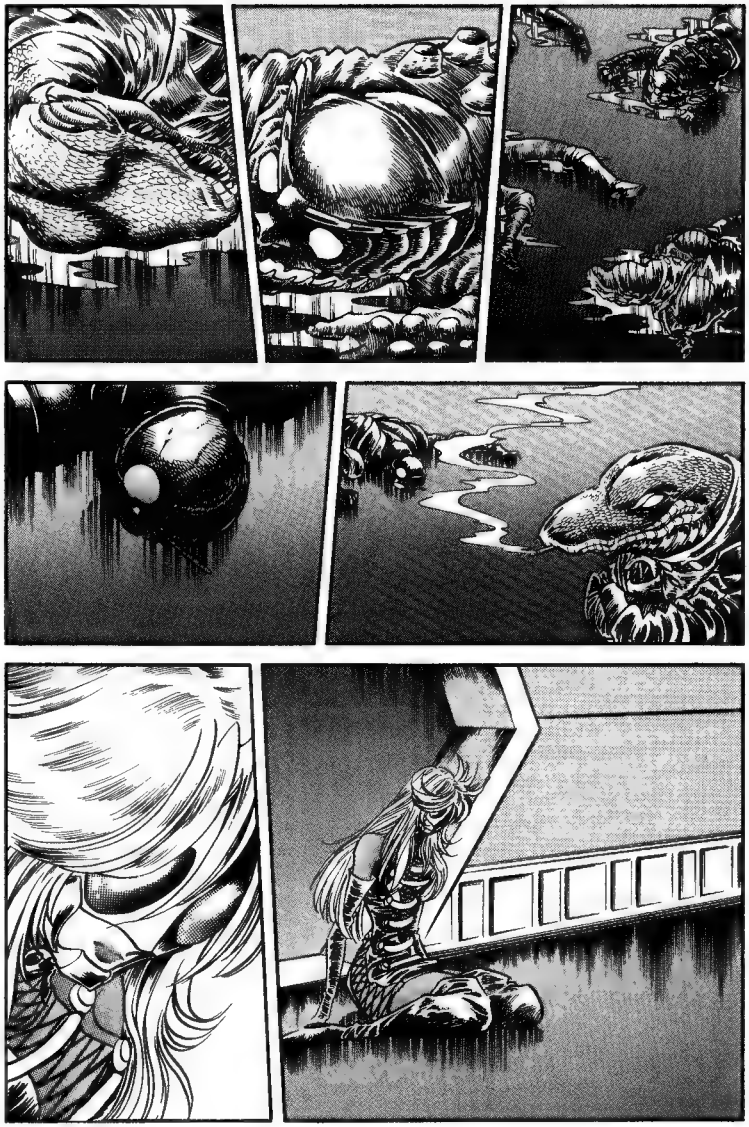
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, RYUSEI. YOU DIDN'T KNOW RASPUTIN WOULD DO THIS.
IF YOU DIDN'T SHARE MY POWERS, IF YOU HADN'T LINKED WITH ME...

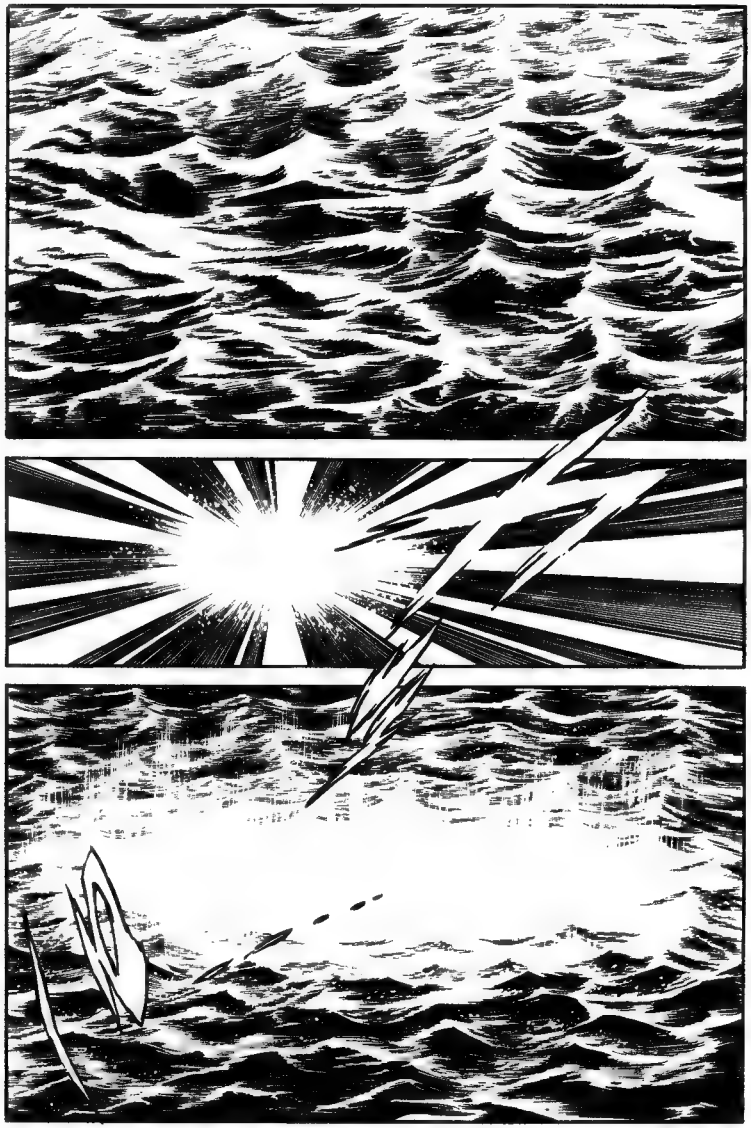

YOUR POWERS ARE IN A DIFFERENT LEAGUE, RYUSEI!
I WISH YOU COULD HAVE SEEN HIS FACE. IT ALMOST MAKES IT ALL WORTH-WHILE.

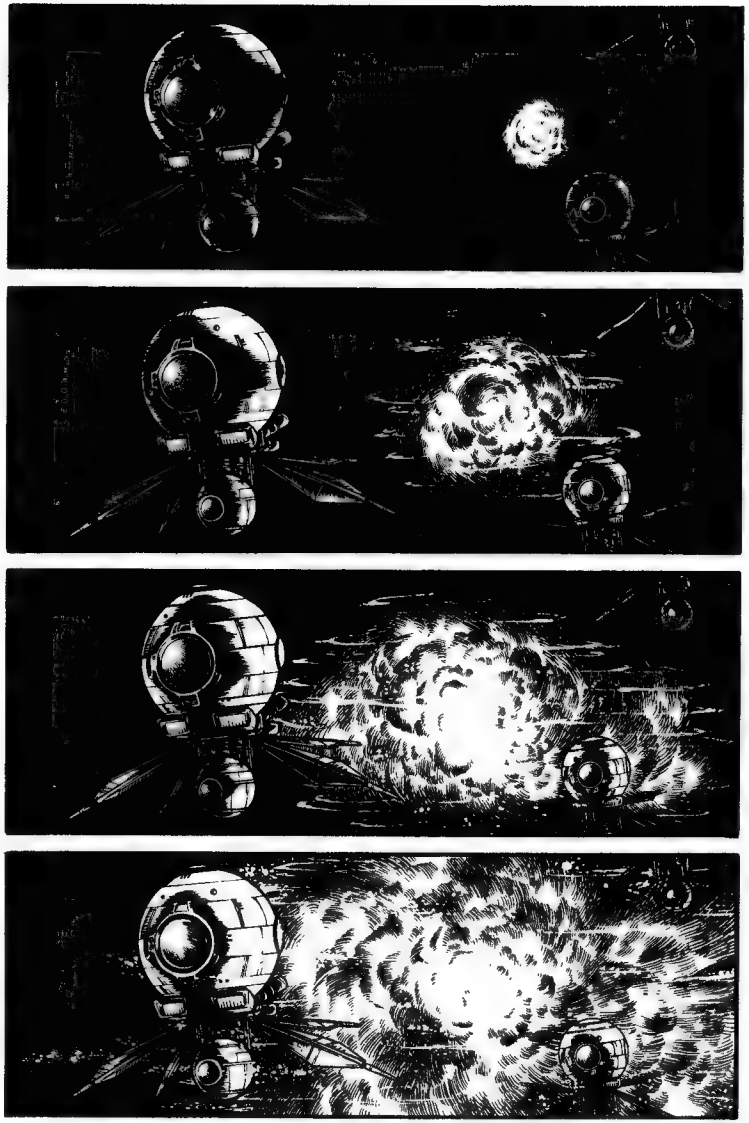
ANYONE WOULD BE A FOOL TO TRY.
NO MORE...
I WAS A FOOL TO TRY TO KILL YOU.

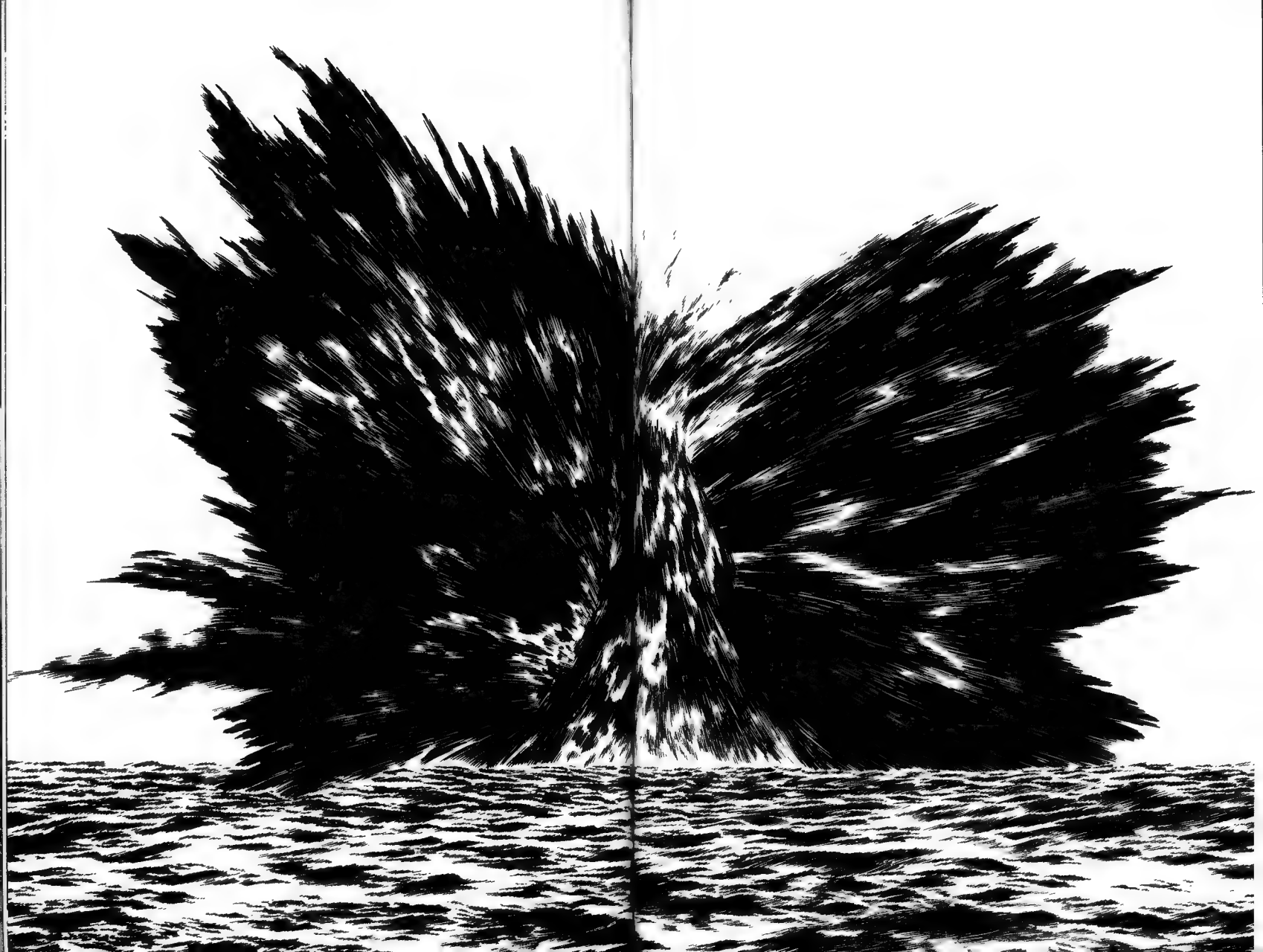
GODDAMMIT! THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO. WITH ALL MY POWERS, I'M POWERLESS WHEN IT MATTERS MOST!
NO! YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU SAVED ME FROM DEATH ONCE BEFORE...
...WE BOTH KNOW I'VE BEEN ON BORROWED TIME SINCE THEN.

I WAS SAVED BY THE VERY MAN I WAS SENT TO KILL...
...MY MIND MELDED WITH YOURS. I GOT YOUR MEMORIES...
AND YOUR POWERS, BUT I COULDN'T CONTROL THEM...
RYUSEI ...
DON'T SHUT ME OUT YET, MARIA...
THERE'S STILL SOME TIME.
...LET ME STAY WITH YOU.
...THE VERY LAST MOMENT...
...UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE...

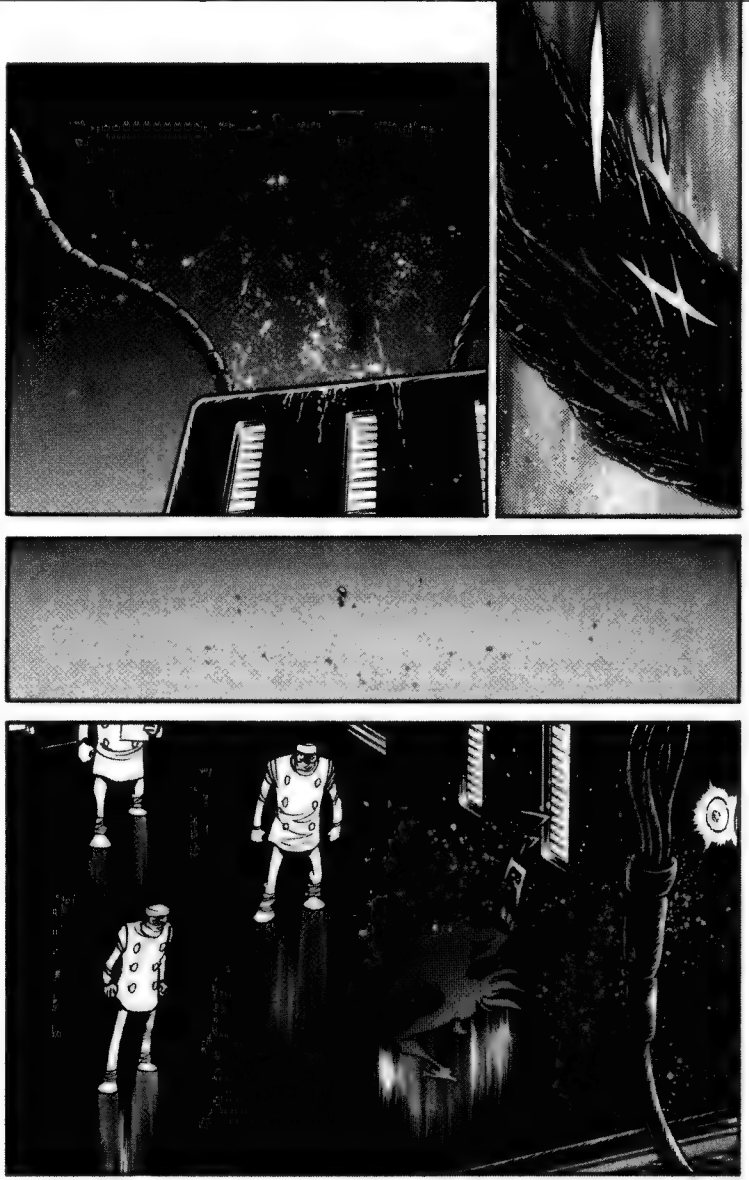








YOU NEED TO TRY TO KEEP THEM UNDER CONTROL.
YOU'RE USING YOUR POWERS TOO ERRATICALLY.
I CAN FEEL MY POWER RETURNING.
WHEW!
I FEEL BETTER NOW.
YOU'RE LIKE A RUNAWAY TRAIN! IF YOU SMASH YOURSELF UP TOO BADLY...
...THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO BRING YOU BACK!
YEAH, YEAH, I REALIZE THAT.
ONE MORE TIME IS ALL I'LL NEED.



I'M GONNA FINISH IT THIS TIME!
RYUSEI CHISATO AND HIS LITTLE WINGED FRIEND ARE CARRION!

YOU HEAR ME, KID?! YOU'RE DEAD!!

YOU MUST LOOK AFTER YOURSELVES FROM NOW ON.

I CAN PROTECT MYSELF EASILY ENOUGH...
...SO IT'S SILLY TO WASTE MY TIME AND ENERGY PROTECTING OTHERS WHILE THEY TRY TO PROTECT ME.

GOT IT?

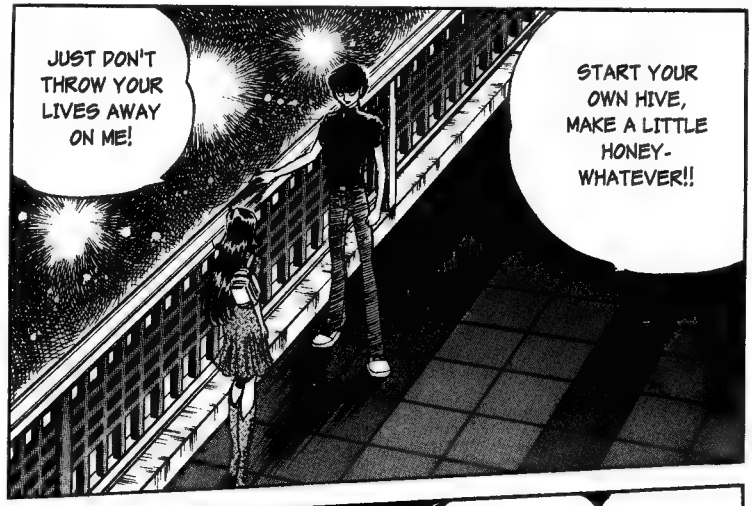
MISS KIJIMA?

YES... I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN.
SO YOU MADE IT.

BUT YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH.
DON'T RISK YOUR LIVES FOR ME AGAIN.

THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE.

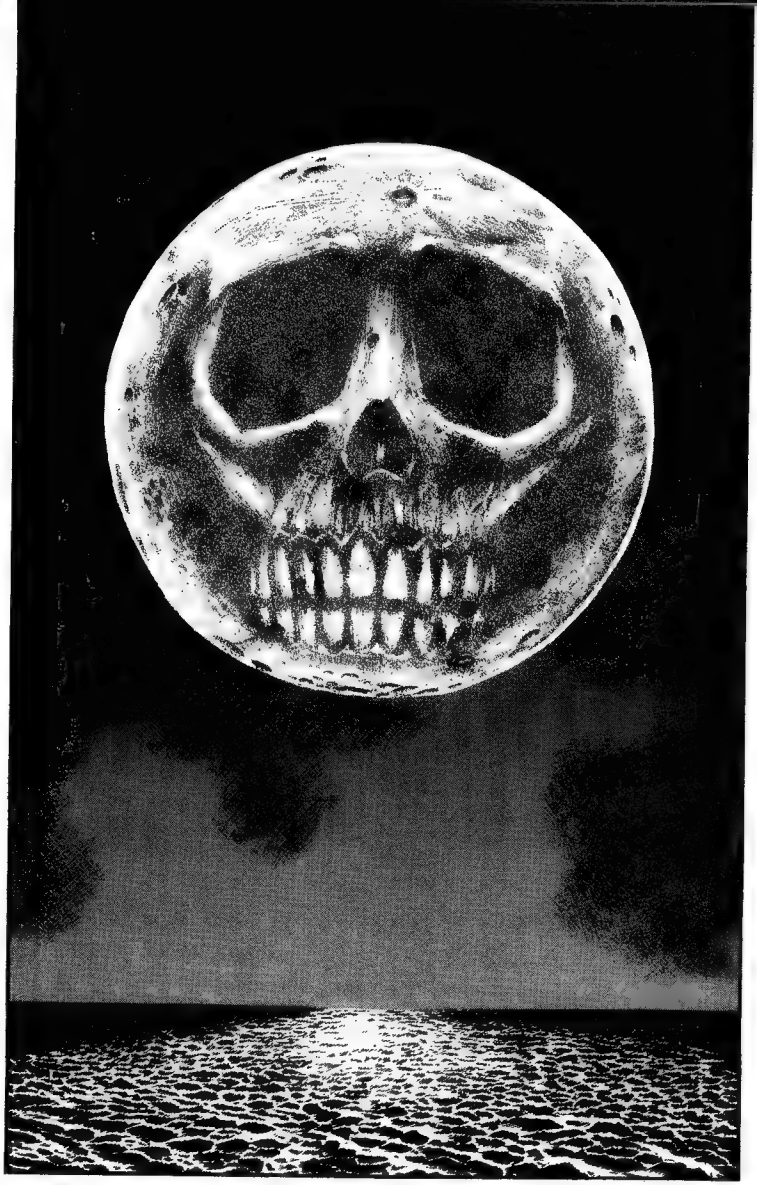
I...
ARE YOU ASKING US TO GIVE UP OUR MISSION IN LIFE?
SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME SUCH A NICE GUY, MASTER RYUSEI?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU!

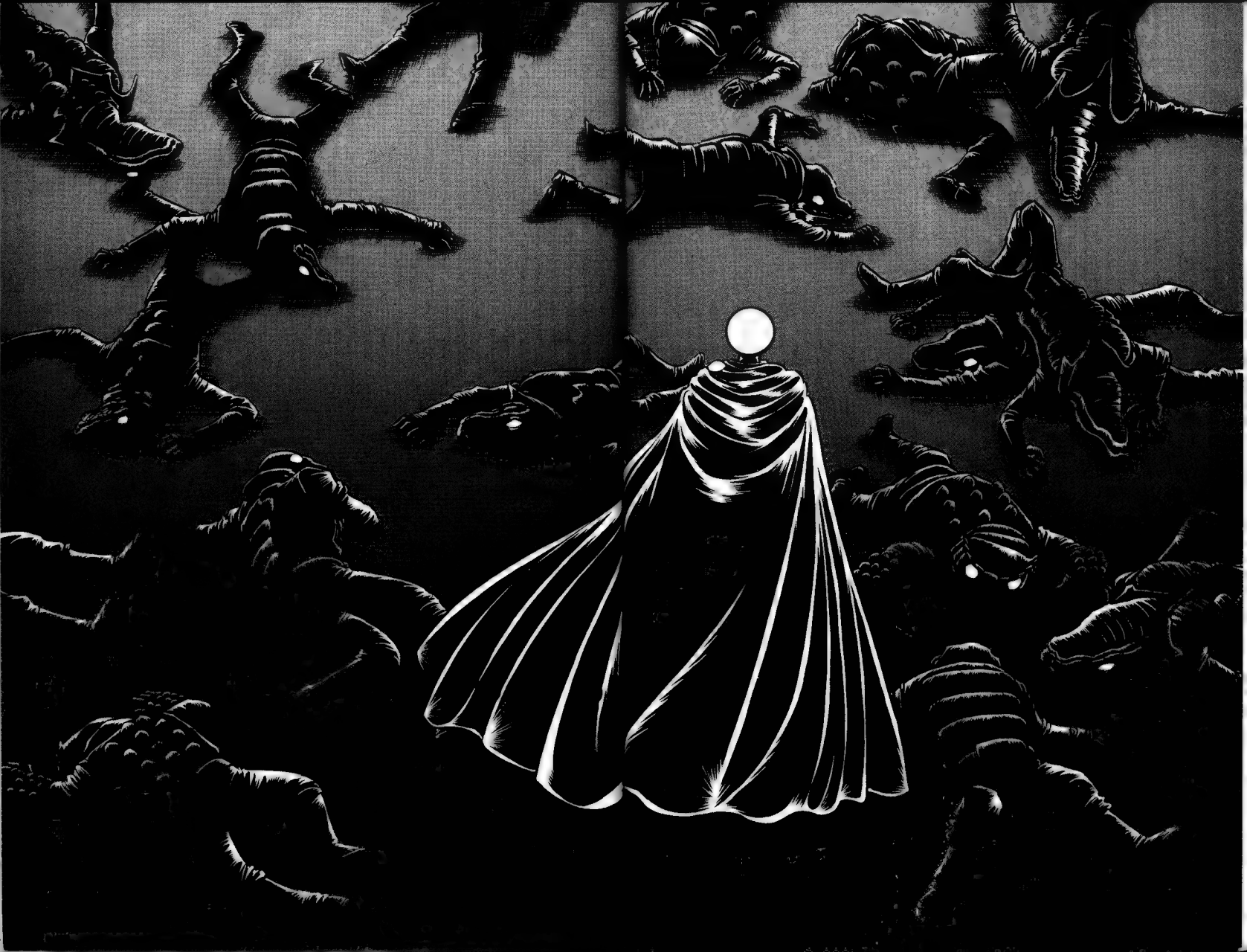

JUST DON'T THROW YOUR LIVES AWAY ON ME!
START YOUR OWN HIVE, MAKE A LITTLE HONEY- WHATEVER!!

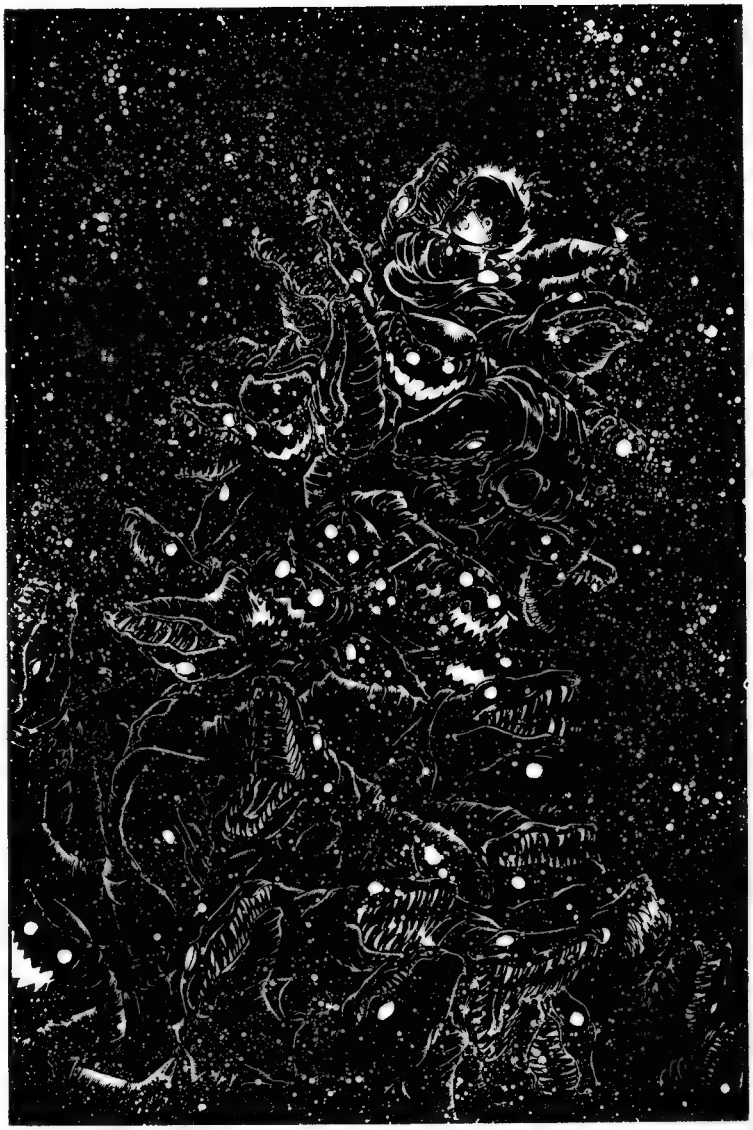
FOR OURSELVES?
LIVE FOR YOURSELVES.
YOU'RE NOT MY SLAVES!

...PLEASE DON'T TEASE ME LIKE THAT.
MASTER RYUSEI ---

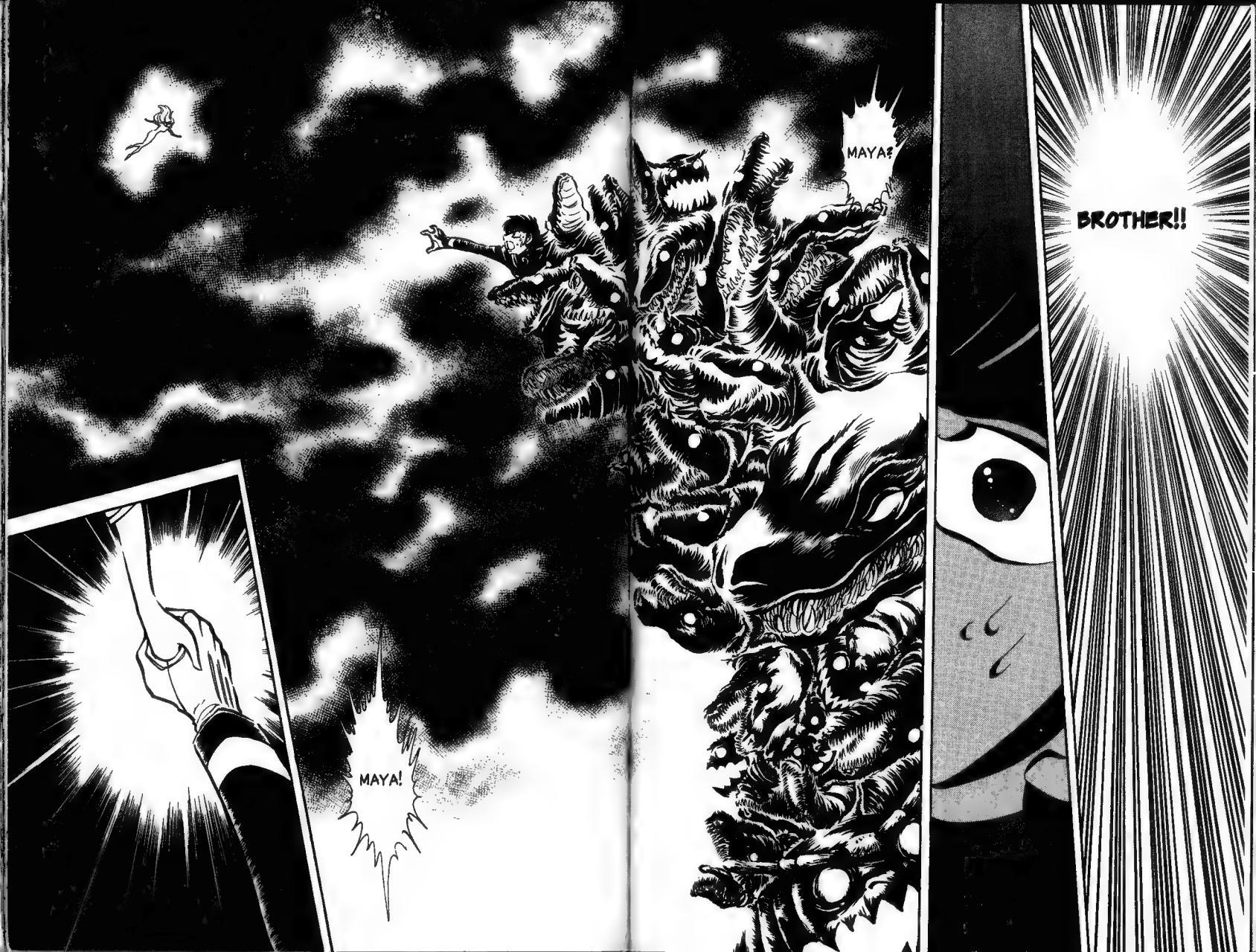
CH. 43 タイガー・ムーン THE TIGER MOON

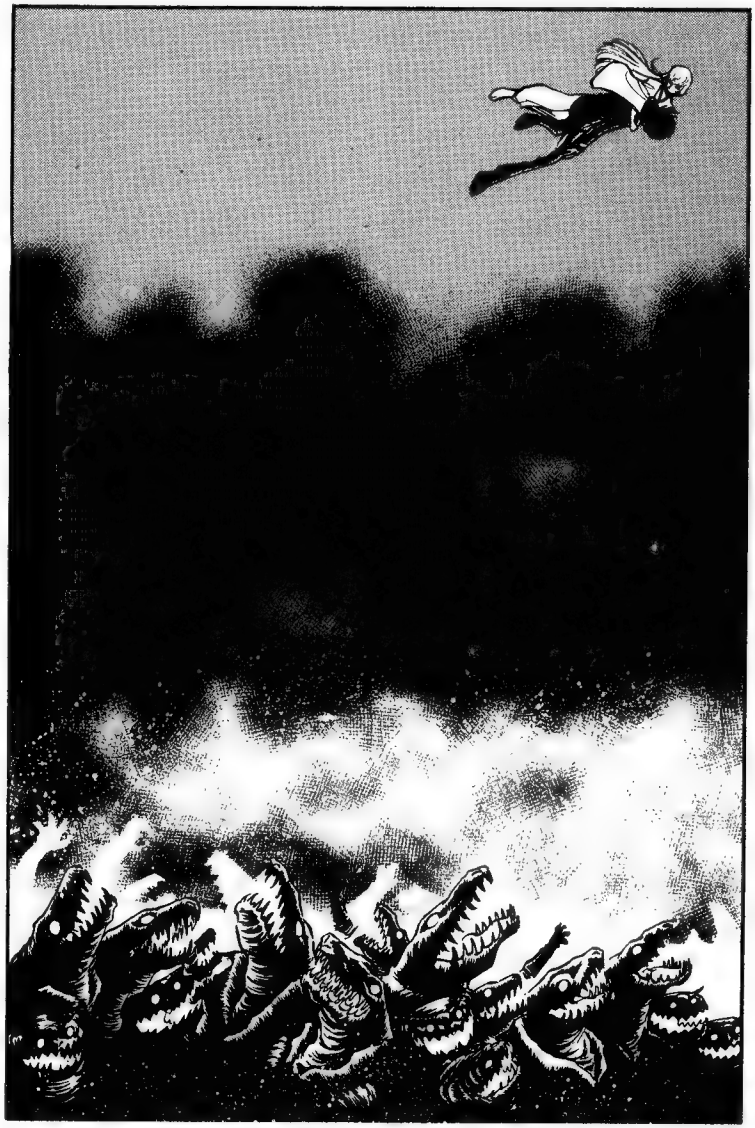




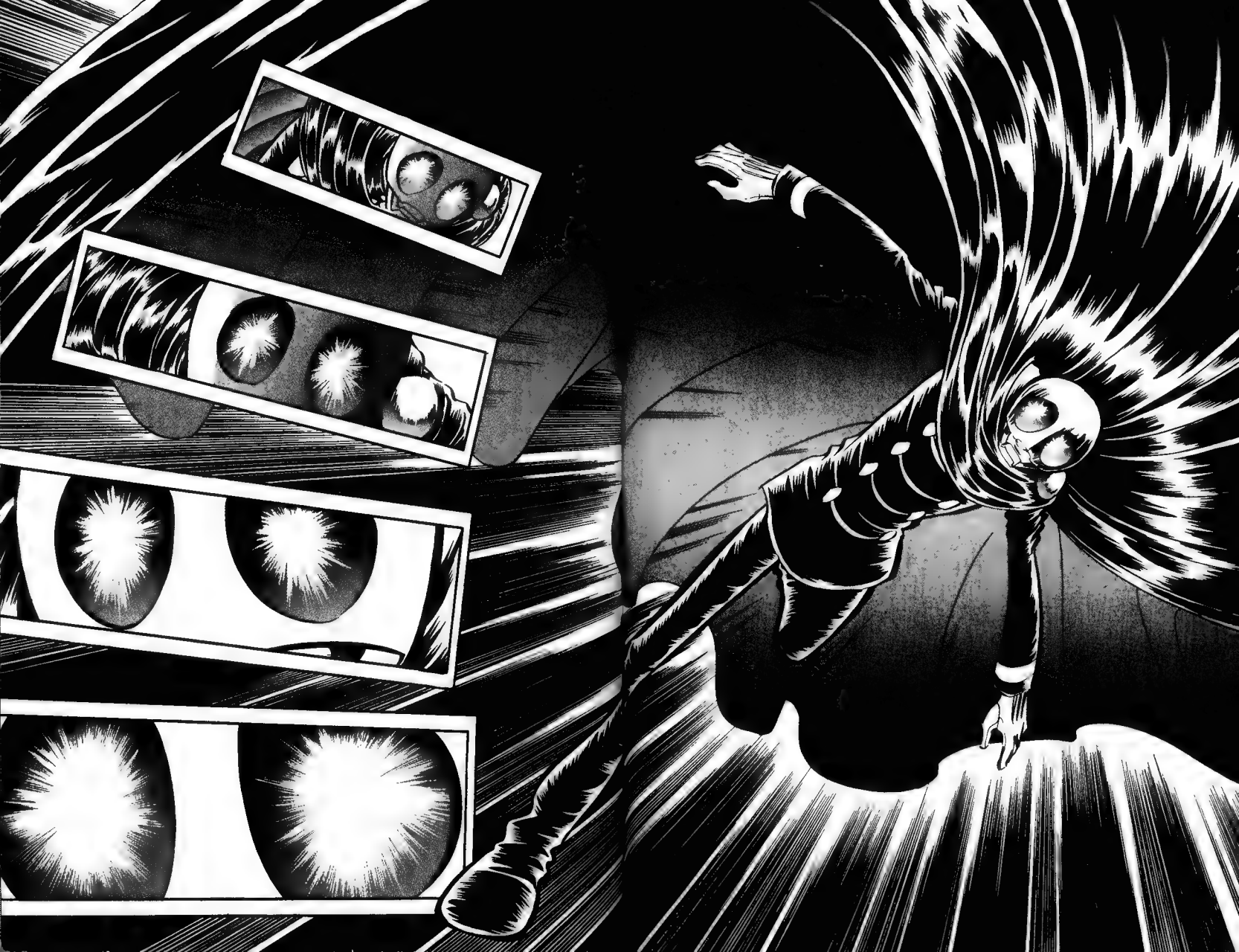


A
AAAAAAAAAAAA
AA
AA
GH!!

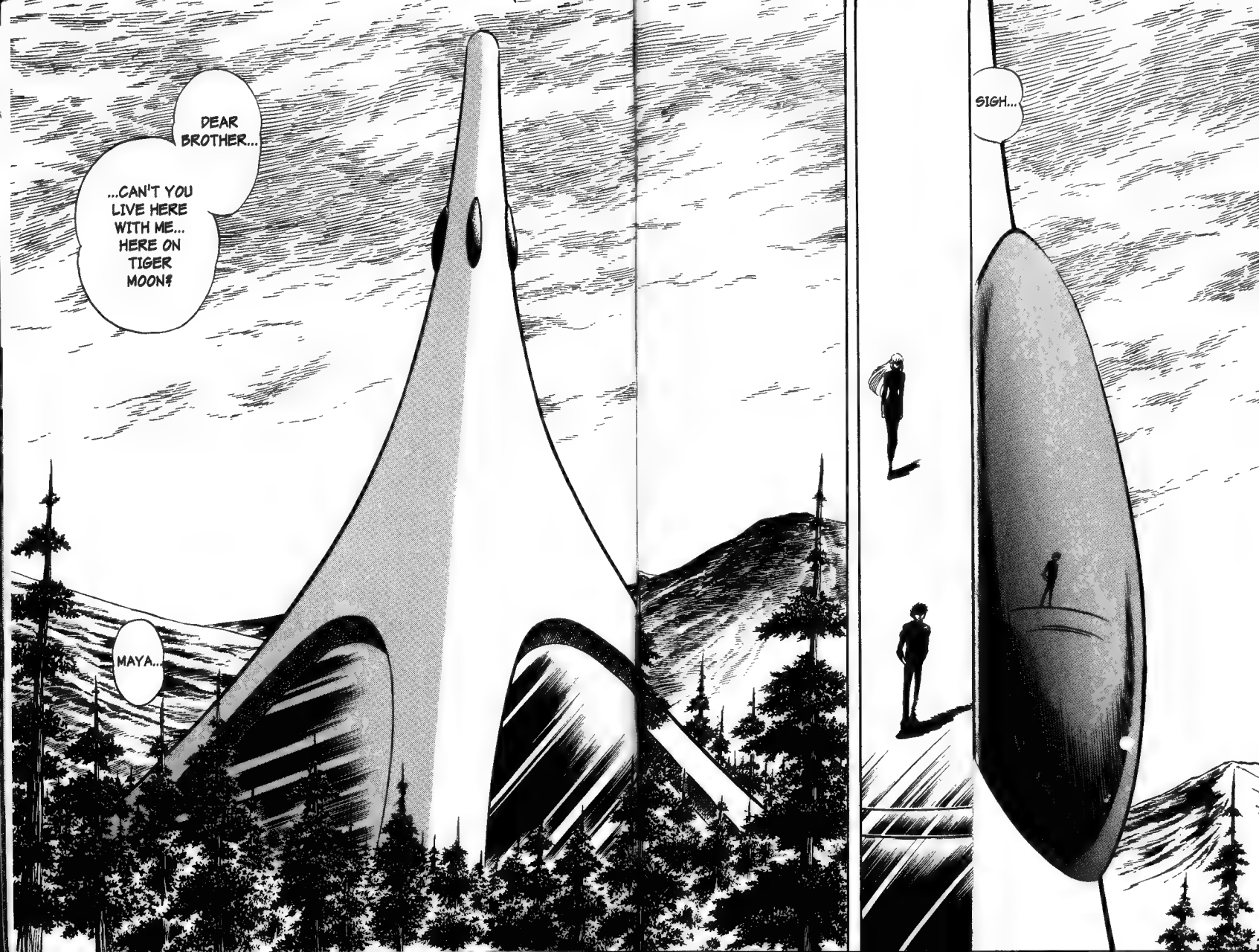

MAYA!
MAYA?
BROTHER!!

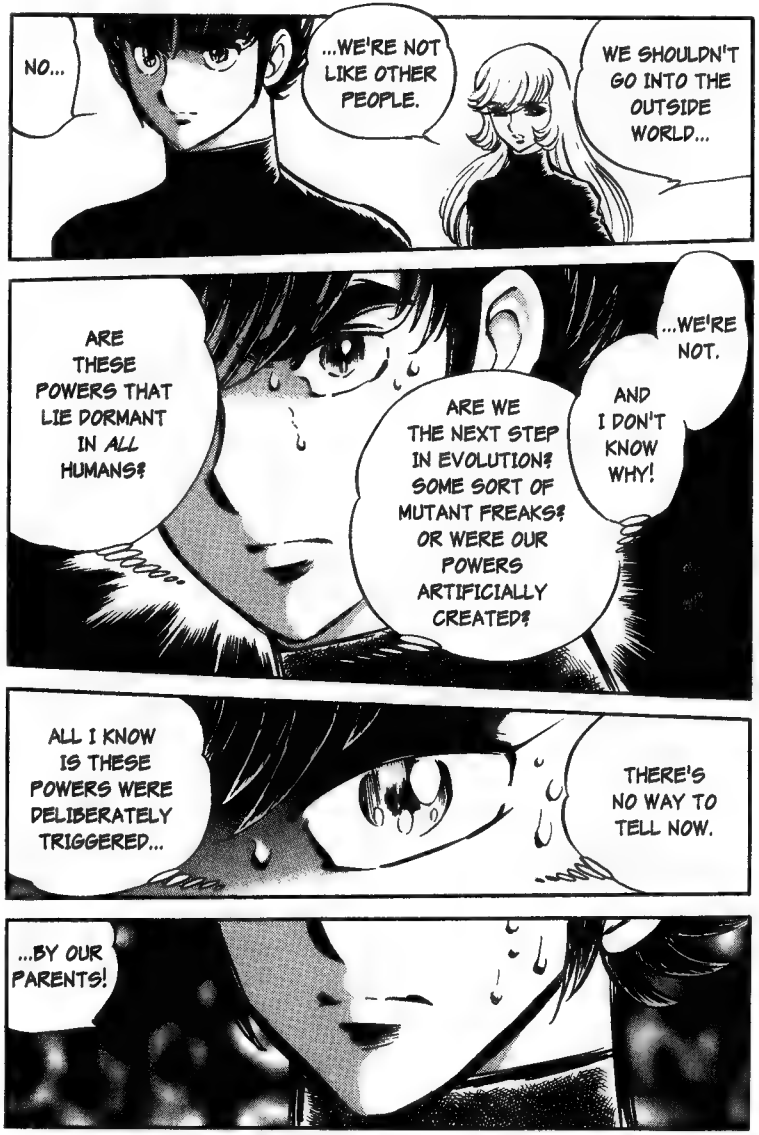


BROTHER?!

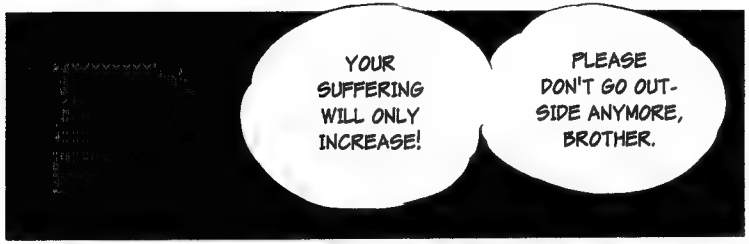


OH, RYUSEI...
...YOU WERE DREAMING AGAIN.


DEAR BROTHER...
...CAN'T YOU LIVE HERE WITH ME... HERE ON TIGER MOON?
MAYA...
SIGH...


NO...
...WE'RE NOT LIKE OTHER PEOPLE.
WE SHOULDN'T GO INTO THE OUTSIDE WORLD...
ARE THESE POWERS THAT LIE DORMANT IN ALL HUMANS?
ARE WE THE NEXT STEP IN EVOLUTION? SOME SORT OF MUTANT FREAKS? OR WERE OUR POWERS ARTIFICIALLY CREATED?
...WE'RE NOT.
AND I DON'T KNOW WHY!
ALL I KNOW IS THESE POWERS WERE DELIBERATELY TRIGGERED...
THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL NOW.
...BY OUR PARENTS!

YOU CAN ATONE FOR...
...YOUR SINS HERE.
YOU'VE USED THESE POWERS TO DO EVIL THINGS, RYUSEI.
OF COURSE, YOU HAD YOUR REASONS. YOU WERE PROVOKED.
BUT...
...PLEASE, BROTHER, STAY HERE. WITH ME.
YOU SUFFER FROM BAD DREAMS, DON'T YOU?
MAYA, I CAN'T ANSWER THAT RIGHT NOW...


YOUR SUFFERING WILL ONLY INCREASE!
PLEASE DON'T GO OUT-SIDE ANYMORE, BROTHER.

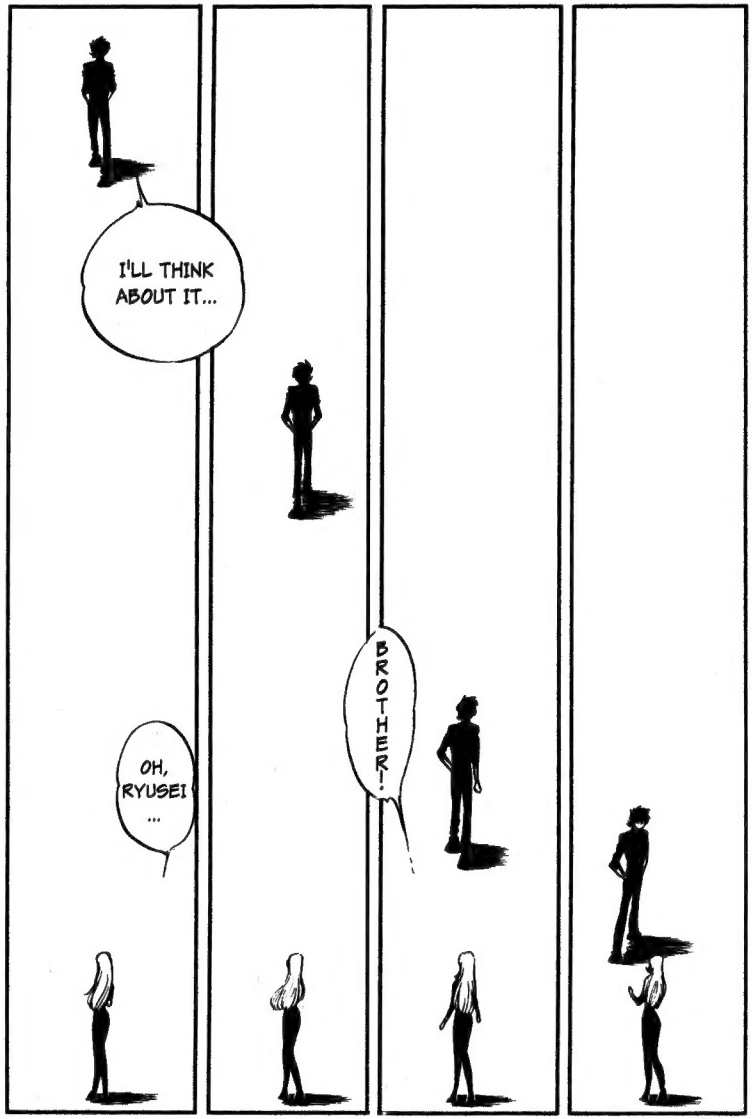
WE CAN WORK FROM HERE TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.
GRANDFATHER SAW TO EVERYTHING FOR US.
WE HAVE EVERYTHING THAT WE NEED HERE.

.....
THAT'S WHAT OUR GOAL SHOULD BE. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO ATONE FOR OUR SINS...

SINCE THAT DAY - THE DAY THEY BEGAN - OUR POWERS HAVE BEEN GROWING... GETTING STRONGER...
THEY'RE NOT DREAMS, RYUSEI. THEY'RE REALITY...
...THEY'RE YOUR PSYCHIC REALITY!

THAT'S WHY YOU HESITATE TO HURT OTHERS, OR KILL THEM!
YOU'VE ALREADY NOTICED THAT WHEN ONE OF OUR ENEMIES EXPERIENCES PAIN OR DEATH WHILE WE'RE FIGHTING THEM, WE FEEL THE PSYCHIC SHOCK,TOO!

EXACTLY !!!
...EVEN HERE, I CAN'T ESCAPE THE PAIN AND TERROR.
YES... THAT'S WHY I HAVE NIGHTMARES...


I'LL THINK ABOUT IT...
OH, RYUSEI ...
BROTHER!

THAT'S ONE POWER I SURE DON'T NEED...
...OR WANT.
ALL THOSE MONSTERS... WHENEVER I SLEEP, I SEE THEM DYING OVER AND OVER.

...A HUMAN WITH POWERS THAT NO HUMAN SHOULD HAVE TO CONTROL!
I CAN FEEL MY POWERS GROWING, BUT INSIDE I REMAIN HUMAN...

I'M JUST A MAN...
...A MAN WITH SUPERHUMAN BRUTE STRENGTH, BUT JUST A MAN...
POWER... UNCONTROLLABLE POWER'S NOT A GIFT, IT'S A CURSE...

ATONEMENT...?

Preview for Skull Man Volume 7

Rasputin has one last chance to kill Ryusei Chisato or else he'll face the ultimate punishment by the as of yet faceless leader of the Syndicate. In desperation, Rasputin brings in the Ryder Women. But Cobra Man has a score to settle with their prey, and he isn't too appreciative of outside help.

Ryusei, Maya and Garo prepare for the impending battle at Tiger Moon, where Ryusei may very well have cracked the code of his parents' research and created another genetically enhanced human. But however much they prepare for the battle beyond Tiger Moon's walls, the battle within is far more fierce. The spirit of Ryusei's grandfather is not wholly expunged from his life and may manifest in the most unlikely of places.

Atonement implies guilt! Am I guilty, or am I a victim? Who's behind this?! Until I find that out, until I settle this, I will never be at peace...

I can't run away and hide...

The nightmares won't stop until I finish this!

I can't stop now... someone has got to pay!

Kick the book
wilson wilson